

Mahon: Kenya Dispatch #20 11.12.07 - Slugging It Out With Satan

Pictures

1_God Bless You Holy Word: In whatever ministry setting within which we find ourselves, our first goal is to lift up Christ and to ground men and women in the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

2_Q & A Over Lunch: I try to always make myself available to conferees during meal times. Here a group of eager young men are meeting with me to learn the doctrine of the Eternal Security Of The Believer. (Victor, my host and rescuer is front left in this picture)

3_El's turnout topped mine: El was meeting with those who were interested on Q & A concerning the "Godly Woman" as taken from Titus 2:3 - 5. As you can see the turnout for "Mamma" as she is affectionately called, was a little more enthusiastic.

4_Men turn out at 6 a.m.: When speaking at a conference I always invite inquirers to voluntarily get up early to meet with me on some special topic. This particular morning it was The Daily Quiet Time Alone With God. Everywhere I go I am told that men will not get up early to study the Word of God. Every where I go I find men who are willing to get up early for the chance to go deeper in the Word of God.

5_Soon swelled to over 50: The handful of men who showed up early was soon augmented by over 50 students who voluntarily go up an hour and a half early to find out how to have a Daily Quiet Time Alone With God

6_East Africa Collegiate Conference: No matter the country or culture, the enthusiasm of Christian college students remains unmatched.

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Thy statutes.

The Testimony of John Fletcher of Madely: "One time meeting him when he was very ill with a hectic fever... I said, 'I am sorry to find you so ill.' Mr. Fletcher answered with great sweetness and energy. 'Sorry, sir! Why are you sorry? It is the chastisement of my heavenly Father, and I rejoice in it. I love the rod of my God, and rejoice therein, as an expression of His love and affection towards me.'" (.JC. Ryle; The Christian Leaders of the Last Century; pg 388)

Dear Prayer Warriors,

We are finishing up here in Kenya in a regular slug fest with Satan. It is great sport for the athletes of God and the game is definitely afoot as we sprint for the goal. Pray that we might be found as exhorted by God in *II Timothy 2:3 - 5*, "***Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.***" The rule is simple, Christ and Him crucified, not our lives but His with our lives as servants for His sake - to serve and not to be served, until He returns or calls us home. (*II Corinthians 4:5; Mark 10:45*)

I could sense the gurgling in my stomach as my chest and back cramped. God was gracious as I was just finishing up my workshop and I was able to sprint to the men's room. (I immediately recognized the symptoms as this Kenyan Quick Weight Loss System as its previous visits have already been responsible for the loss of two pant sizes.) When I did not return, Victor, my host at the college conference came by to see if I was all right - he did not find me at my best.

What he saw was enough to make him send for Eleanor. There I was, bent over, bathed in sweat my dress shirt soaking wet and clinging to my skin, my hair matted down, drops of sweat falling upon the floor already gathering in a small pool, white as a sheet, it was enough to motivate him to get his Bible and begin to read Scriptures over me and pray. Thanks to antibiotics left behind by Dr. McWilliams and the OKC team and the Imodium which El had packed (Victor provided me with a fresh T-shirt during the height of my ordeal and Eleanor had a fresh dress shirt and tie for me to augment the Imodium.) By God's grace, I, though wobbly on my feet was able to preach that night.

I had already promised a handful of young university men that I would meet with them at 6 a.m. the following morning to teach them how to have a Daily Quiet Time Alone With God. El and I prayed about it and decided to trust God and fulfill our commitments claiming *II Corinthians 12:10*, "***Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.***" Again, Paul's example in I Corinthians 9:27 is ever before us, "***Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.***" I was glad I did not cancel - the 10 grew to over 50. Every where I go I am told men will not get up in the early hours to study God's Word and every where I go I find men who will get up in the early hours to study God's Word

God continued to bless and I was able to preach the morning message - I could feel the sustaining power of your prayers.

That day during a testimony a student shared, "You have become our mother and father in the faith" This statement simply confirmed a title already bestowed on Eleanor. Though I am referred to as Rev. Mahon, she is called "Mamma" by all the students as

they crowd to sit with her at meals and use the free time to visit with her - their minds eager to hear answers to their questions from God's holy, inerrant, eternal, written Word.

Eleanor has continued her ministry in the world of high fashion here in Kenya. Miss Kenya shared that the reason she was attending the seminars was for the Q & A time that El lead along with the chance to visit with her over tea at the breaks. At the conference Eleanor led a leading fashion model to Christ. Women of standing and quality have always been attracted to Eleanor's deep devotion to Christ and her gentle quiet spirit which she uses to bring them to faith in Christ and then to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

With every battle and obstacle Satan threw up (no pun intended!), through perseverance and trust in the promises from God's holy Word, we were able to see great victories.

Though wobbly on my feet God blessed the teaching and preaching of his eternal, holy, inerrant, written Word. For the Word of God depends not on the strength of the one who delivers it, nor on the faith of the one who hears but rather on God and the eternal attributes with which He has endowed His holy Word accompanied by the faithful and effectual work of the Holy Spirit.

God greatly blessed Eleanor as she taught the Word, ministered one on one and in small groups and effectively shared the gospel with inquirers.

We were able to distribute, QT Workbooks, Bibles, Bible Study aids, pens, notebooks and other items to the some 100 students from colleges in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

It was indeed a slugfest with Satan, he gave his best, I will grant him that, but that is never enough. God brought us through victoriously. The Word of God was preached, people were saved, men and women built up in the faith, inquires were grounded in the great doctrines of salvation, students were called to repentance and to service of their Lord, young men and women were started in the discipline of the Daily Quiet Time Alone With God, the Word of God went out and did not return void but accomplished the purpose for which God gathered us together and for which God sent It out.

As we look back, still weak from our labors our heart is flushed with the thrill of victory in the face of seeming insurmountable trials. Today we speak to a group of High School students on "Faithfulness", Eleanor taking the ladies while I meet with the young men. It is our prayer that while preaching on faithfulness, we ourselves would be found faithful in the teaching and preaching of God's Word no matter what obstacles Satan throws in our path.

We realize all the more that now as always we minister...

by the grace of God and by the effectual and fervent prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Nairobi, Kenya - seeking to finish strong, that while preaching to others we would not be disqualified.

PS We are learning many lessons during our time of service here in Kenya. It brings to mind one of my favorite hymns from my prayer notebook.

Abide With Me

Abide with me - fast falls the even tide;

The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide;

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;

Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away

Change and decay in all around I see;

O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;

But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.

Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;

*And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,*

On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;

What but Thy grace can foil the tempters power?

Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,

Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness

Where is death's sting where, grave, thy victory?

I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;

Shine thru the gloom and point me to the skies

Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee,

In life, in death O Lord abide with me.

(Henry Francis Lyte *Born:* June 1, 1793, Ednam, Scotland. *Died:* November 20, 1847, Nice, France. Orphaned at an early age, Lyte attended Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, distinguishing himself in English poetry. In 1815, he was ordained, and served a number of parishes in Ireland and western England. However, for most of his career, he was pastor at All Saints Church in Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England. He wrote two books of religious poetry and hymns. Lyte was inspired to write this hymn as he was dying of tuberculosis; he finished it the Sunday he gave his farewell sermon in the parish he served so many years. The next day, he left for Italy to regain his health. He didn't make it, though-he died in Nice, France, three weeks after writing these words. Here is an excerpt from his

farewell sermon: "O brethren, I stand here among you today, as alive from the dead, if I may hope to impress it upon you, and induce you to prepare for that solemn hour which must come to all, by a timely acquaintance with the death of Christ.")



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four

Picture Five



Picture Six