

Mahon: Kenya Dispatch #19 11.11.07 - The Church Over The Casino

Pictures

1_ Church Over The Casino: We had been invited to speak at a church in the downtown district. We were not prepared for what met our eyes - it was the church over the Casino

2_ Entering by the burnt outside door: There had recently been an electrical fire and the staircase and upper floors were still without lighting. Evidence of a fierce blaze was everywhere.

3_ The walk up four flights of unlit burnt our staircases was both dark and foreboding

4_ Inside though we found the congregation of young couples both warm and enthusiastic.

5_ El's time with the ladies was especially blessed: God continues to use Eleanor in the lives of women as she teaches and counsels on the principles of being a godly woman, wife and mother.

Prayer Requests:

I. Please petition the Lord, that we would not fear what man fears, that neither the immediate nor the imagined would shape our decisions but rather we would step forth in faith trusting in Christ, making God, not man our fear.

Isaiah 8:11-13

11 *For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying,*

12 *"You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it.*

13 *"It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread.*

II. Please pray over Moses exhortation to Joshua, that we might have the same resolute heart and focus of purpose as did this great man of God.

Joshua 1:6-9

6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.

8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

For more Daily Quiet Times, Bible Studies, Messages and Pictures visit our website at
www.gciweb.org

Dear Prayer Warriors,

It was a little intimidating entering the Church over the Casino. A recent electrical fire had left the whole side of the building without lights, scarred and burnt. As we entered the dark staircase the blaring music of the Casino could be heard and the street was filled with those you might expect to be loitering outside a Casino as night approached. I must admit to misgivings as Eleanor I started up the four flights of dark and burned out staircases.

We prayed before entering and were confident that we were not alone, that the Lord and His angels were with us, going up before us and guarding the way behind. At each darkened floor, in the dim light of the receding day we could see people of dubious character loitering, some exchanging bills in a furtive manner - who knows what transactions were taking place.

On the fourth floor we entered The Church Over The Casino. Colorful fabric had been hung to cover the smoke stained walls and the meeting hall was beginning to fill with young couples eager to hear God's Word as we began the first of a three night series on the Covenant of Marriage. All our foreboding and misgivings melted away as the songs of praise drowned out the sounds of the city and the Casino below. I led off with a prayer for that day when the neon Casino sign would be replaced by a Cross and the floors below would be Christian educational rooms - the bottom floor where satan's minions ply their trade would be a worship center where God's servants were equipped and sent out into the harvest fields of the world.

This was an important lesson for me to learn, or should I say re-learn. Satan has no real power over us. The only thing he can do is lie, intimidate and bluff - but he has no real power. If we ignore his facade of power, if we meet challenge with the power of God's holy Word, if we call his bluff, if we step forward into the fray with the ever drawn word

of the Spirit tightly gripped and ever in use, he backs up, he bellows and bluffs and then he runs away.

In the fatigue and darkness of the moment it is often hard to remember this. We are often caught off guard. As you pray for us, pray that we would be ever aware that the swirling chaos around is all one big bluff and that we have but to remain focused and every pressing onward to meet our goal - that we would be able to say as the great missionary and Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:14, "***I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."***

This we will do by the grace of God and by the fervent and effective prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

Nairobi, Kenya - pressing the battle ever onward ever forward

PS I will close this email with the words from one of my favorite hymns...

"Sound the Battle Cry!!"

William Fiske Sherwin

1826-1888

Sound the battle cry! See, the foe is nigh;
Raise the standard high for the Lord;
Gird your armor on, stand firm every one;
Rest your cause upon His holy Word.

Refrain

*Rouse, then, soldiers, rally round the banner,
Ready, steady, pass the word along;
Onward, forward, shout aloud Hosanna!
Christ is Captain of the mighty throng.*

Strong to meet the foe, marching on we go,
While our cause we know, must prevail;
Shield and banner bright, gleaming in the light,
Battling for the right we ne'er can fail.

Refrain

O! Thou God of all, hear us when we call,
Help us one and all by Thy grace;
When the battle's done, and the vict'ry's won,
May we wear the crown before Thy face.

Refrain



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five