

Mahon: Kenya Dispatch #14 10.15.07 - The Sower Sows The Word

Pictures:

- #1 Richard presents his testimony quoting some 12 Bible verses. Each team member memorized over 30 passages of Scripture in preparation for this ministry trip
- #2 Each week I seek to faithfully bring the Word of God to young married couples and families as it pertains to marriage, family and child raising.
- #3 Dr. McWilliams teaches a group of young Kenyan married men the Biblical principles of marriage. With him are team members Roger and Gary who both gave their testimonies quoting their Scripture memory verses word perfect.
- #4 Dr. McWilliams presents pastor Billy with a box of Bible study materials for his ministry. Pastor Billy ministers in one the largest slums in the world and the supplies we were able to give him exceeded several months salary.
- #5 The "seed" supplied by your faith and sacrificial gifts - Bibles, bible study aids and Bible reference books which are hand delivered to carefully selected pastors, ministers, student workers and missionaries.

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

I. Sowing God's Word - Evangelism

II. Sowing God's Word - Families

III. Sowing God's Word - One on one and small groups

IV. Sowing God's Word - Pastors, teachers and missionaries

V. Sowing God's Word - Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works

VI. Prayer Requests: Please pray over the passage that goes with the topic.

A. God's Word would bear fruit

Mark 4:14-20

14 *"The sower sows the word.*

15 *"And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.*

16 *"And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;*

17 *and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.*

18 *"And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,*

19 *and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

20 *"And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."*

B. God's Word would build up families

Joshua 24:15

15 *"And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

C. God's Word would be studied, applied and taught

Ezra 7:10

10 *For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*

D. God's Word would equip pastors, ministers, student works, lay leaders and missionaries.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*

17 *that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

E. God's Word would be delivered by the gifts of our prayer warriors

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

10 *Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;*

11 *you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.*

12 *For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.*

13 *Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,*

14 *while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.*

15 *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

"The sower sows the Word" (Mark 4:14) - it seems clear enough as delivered to us from our Savior by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, yet I am amazed at how convoluted personal evangelism can become in the hands of men.

Sowing God's Word - Evangelism

This is forefront in my mind of late as this week the Oklahoma City team will be spending its time "sowing" - not man's works by rather God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. That is what we are about. In every form, in every situation, we sow the Word of God. The Apostles Paul could not have put it better when he proclaimed in ***1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"*** Evangelism has two components, Jesus Christ and the Word of God. What could be simpler? Personal

evangelism devoid of Scripture is alien and unknown to the Word of God. Personal evangelism devoid of a call to receive Jesus Christ is alien and unknown to the Word of God. I know of no evangelistic encounter in the Word of God where a decision was not called for on the very day of the encounter. I am open to an example from Scripture but I know of none.

Sowing God's Word - Families

It was at the time the greatest compliment that could be paid to me. It was delivered by the student representative of the Reformed Seminary of St. Petersburg, Russia. As he expressed his thanks for my ministry to them he said, "When you came to teach on the family we expected a workbook with personality tests. We expected stories and illustrations from America. We expected videos and workbooks and psychology, but what we got was the Word of God. Thank you for teaching us what the Word of God says about the family"; this meant more to me than anything as it affirmed my objective in the ministry. Now this compliment has been extended to me as well in Africa. At the end of the Marriage Covenant Seminar at NPC Parklands in the heart of Nairobi, the senior pastor stood up to thank me for the weeks spent with their family ministry leadership team and said "You have preached the Word of God - not American, not Kenyan but rather you spoke to us the Word of God. We can forget you are an American and just listen to you as a Bible teacher." That is what our ministry is all about, the Word of God. Be it evangelism or Bible teaching, the sower sows the Word.

Sowing God's Word - One on one and small group

For me it is one of the most exciting aspects of the ministry - sitting around the table with a group of men, Bibles open, quoting our Scripture memory verses, sharing our Bible study preparations, going deep into the Word of God, answering questions from the Word of God, defining life issues from the Word of God - spending time in the company of men who want to go deep in the Word of God - this is what really lights my fire. It always saddens me when I meet a man who talks of a men's group or "Bible study" yet when I ask him what chapter in the Bible he is studying he answers, "Oh, we are studying so and so's book this year". Now I am not opposed to a good Christian book, I love to read myself, but it is not the Word of God. There is no substitute in a man's life for Bible study, be it in chapter form or workbook form, but a study which necessitates the Bible, out and open. This is what we are about, the Word of God heard, read, studied, memorized and meditated upon - in Bible study as in all aspects of the ministry, "the sower sows the Word".

Sowing God's Word - Pastors, teachers and missionaries

Training and equipping the next generation of laborers on foreign fields is both a great privilege and a great responsibility. Ministering to pastors, ministering to missionaries, ministering to lay leaders, ministering to college workers and staff, ministering to future pastors and leaders at staff institutes and Bible colleges - we always come back to the same thing, whether a first time evangelistic presentation, a graduate level seminary class or a conference for pastors and ministers, "the sower sows the Word".

Sowing God's Word - Supplying the Seed: Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible

reference works...

"This is more than his one month salary" The statement was whispered in my ear by a national minister as pastors were being given leather McArthur Study Bibles. The joy and excitement could be seen on their faces and it is a privilege to hand to pastors, ministers and missionaries Bibles, Bible reference works and Bible study aids which your gifts make possible. I have often shared the illustration of the Nigerian pastor who was preaching from a Precious Moments children's presentation Bible. I am constantly amazed at the cast offs that are given to our beloved pastors and ministers in other countries. I had a similar experience just last night. I was sitting next to a national minister who had just returned to Kenya from years serving as a Kenyan missionary in Uganda. He had a worn Bible held together with strapping tape. Imprinted clearly on the cover was still clearly visible, an American woman's name poorly covered with brown shoe polish. This had been "awarded" to him - no doubt taken from some "missionary box" of unclaimed Bibles from a church in the US. Because of your gracious and sacrificial gifts we were able to present to this Minister and missionary a new leather McArthur study Bible. I praise God for your generosity. National pastors, staff, student workers and ministers need quality Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works to get the job done. It is our vision to provide them with the "seed" that they as nationals, in their own lands, in their own fields might fulfill the Lord's mandate, "the sower sows the Word".

"The sower sows the Word" - this is our ministry.

As always we carry this out by the grace of God and by the ever faithful and effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

Nairobi, Kenya - Sowing the Word of God Mark 4:14, 20



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five