

Dispatch Eight

Mahon: Russian Prayer Dispatch #8 - 02.27.07 ...her worth is far above

Pictures...

1. Whether it is an airport lobby or from a stool in a cramped room, Eleanor faithfully runs the GCI office.
2. A lifetime of walking with God is shared with women throughout the world as Eleanor faithfully teaches the Word of God.
3. Much is accomplished in informal times of fellowship, question and answer times, teas and conference breaks as women seek counsel from Eleanor on how to be a godly wife and mother.
4. There are always special challenges to homemaking on the road. Here is a T-shirt, hung out to dry overnight in the apartment "solarium". Many Russian apartments have small balconies which are enclosed in winter for drying.

Prayer Requests:

A. I depart for Houston today to join Eleanor at Megan's side.

Pray for my travels and pray for Megan's appointment with the neurologist.

B. As you pray for Eleanor, ask God to bless her ministry to women around the world. Please pray over the passage from Titus below as Eleanor both models and teaches these principles...

Titus 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be ...teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to

- love their husbands,
- love their children,
- be sensible,
- pure,
- workers at home,
- kind,
- being subject to their own husbands,
- that the word of God may not be dishonored.

C. As always, ask God to empower the preaching and teaching of His holy Word. Please claim...

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

Dear Prayer Warriors,

"Your wife saved my marriage..."

That is how the conversation began. I was dumbfounded by this statement by the Russian pastor as I thought Eleanor barely new his wife. It turns

out we were thrown together during our stay in a group social setting. He said that his wife had been struggling with her convictions regarding the role of the wife in both marriage and home. He said that as she observed Eleanor's behavior, her speech and her actions towards me that she was brought back to the Scriptures and made a personal rededication of her life as a pastor's wife. I praise God for a wife whose godly conduct calls women back to the Word of God and their roles as both wife and mother.

Proverbs 31:10 states this clearly, "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels." Eleanor is at this time bearing the fruit a lifetime of walking with God. From her college years to present she has given herself to the Lord and to His service.

Now at a time when many women are settling back to enjoy the fruits of a lifetime. The dream home, the grandchildren, the freedom to pursue personal goals, flexibility in life and a growing freedom - these are enjoyed by so many yet Eleanor finds herself far from home, far from children and grandchildren, sacrificing her life for those of women on foreign soils and she does so with joy and grace.

I do not take this sacrifice lightly. Time and time again I meet men my age who labor alone on the mission field. Their wives are back home and they find themselves encumbered with the dual burdens of functioning without their helpmate and explaining this to others.

EI's ministry is both deep and far reaching...

2. She has a strong ministry of both modeling and teaching - a ministry which causes wives to aspire to the role of wife and homemaker, not look for spiritual outlets to these high callings. Far too many women on the Christian entertainment and teaching circuit offer up a model to young wives of an alternative calling to that of wife, mother and homemaker. If only God calls, this can all be left behind to the more exciting ministry of travel and independence from the mundane duties of home and family. Nothing could be further from the truth and one of Eleanor's ministries is to teach and model Titus 2:3-5 "Older ... teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored."

3. She is a godly helpmeet a true blessing to me. All of the children have commented that when Eleanor travels with me I come back more rested, healthier physically and mentally and with a more positive experience on the mission field. This is because God created me and all husbands with a need.

A need for a helpmeet and I praise God for a wife who considers it her

highest calling to be that helpmeet. I honestly do not know how I got by before God blessed me with Eleanor as a wife. As I look back on it I certainly would not call it living. When I think of the last 32 years with Eleanor I can say that on the day we were married, I really became complete, it was not until then that I had confidence that I was going to be used of God. Why - because I realized almost immediately what a precious jewel of great worth had been bestowed upon me by God. With Eleanor by my side I really feel I can face anything the future may throw my way.

4. You may have noticed Eleanor's imprint on the GCI Office. Her administrative gifts are a marvel and they double if not more the time I am able to give to the ministry of teaching and preaching the Word of God. These duties can often be tedious and I have never heard Eleanor offer a single word of complaint as she faithfully fulfills her duties in the GCI office. Even when this office is a small desk or stool in a cramped room in some far off locale. As far as Eleanor is concerned she could be in a high rise executive office of some million dollar Christian organization. Her zeal is to bring glory to God in all she does and she aspires to no higher calling than this.

5. Last but not least, God has given Eleanor the ministry of counseling and mentoring the young wives of missionaries, national pastors and staff. In an age when many Christian organizations encourage or require the wife to be on staff, to make the role of wife and family secondary to the institutional ministry, when many churches encourage the wife to take a greater staff role in the church or pursue a career of her own, when many Christian parents are taking the attitude of, "We did not send you to college to waste your time being a wife and mother" - in such an age Eleanor takes the initiative in affirming to these wives that there is no higher calling in Christ than that which a godly wife and mother is called, the role of wife, helpmeet, mother and homemaker.

Eleanor is home now. She is called to the side of our daughter Megan who incurred a head injury at work. Please pray for Megan's speedy recovery and as you pray, ask God's blessing on my precious jewel above all worth, that God might speedily reunite us in safety and service.

As always we minister by The Grace of God And
Your effectual and fervent intercessions

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
St. Petersburg, Russia
A balmy 15F and snowing



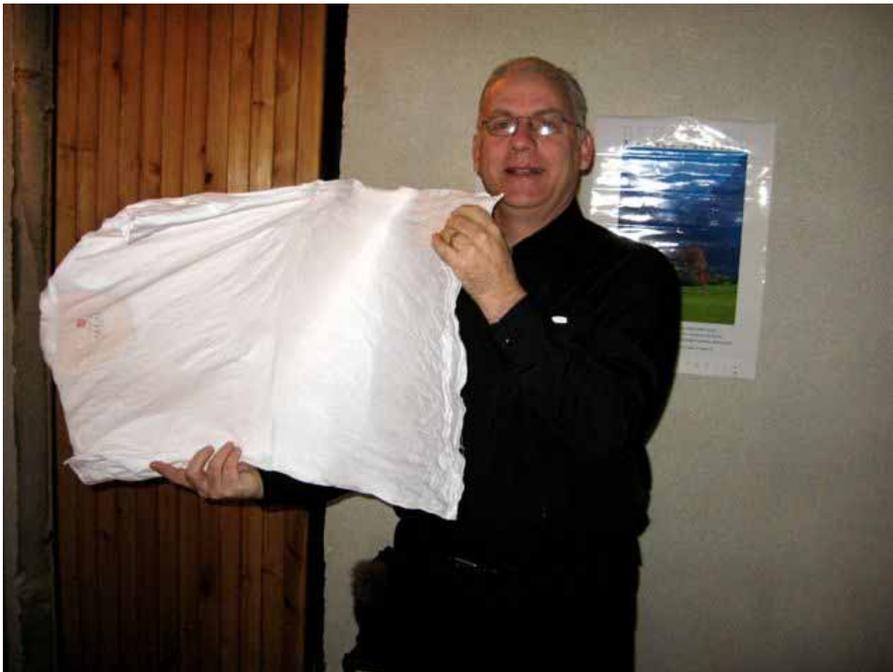
Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four