

Dispatch Four

Mahon: Russian Prayer Dispatch #4 - 02.14.07 Hitting the ground running...

Pictures

Picture One - Heading for church Sunday morning -18F and snowing

Picture Two - Pastor Ravil prepares his heart for the morning service

Picture Three - Pavil translates as the holy, inspired, inerrant Word of God is taught

Special Treat: Russians at worship

Special Attachments: Notes on the Authority and Sufficiency of the Word of God in both English and Russian

I. We arrive in Tuymen at 4:30 a.m.: all materials and electronic equipment for the church arrive safely

II. The Reformed Church of Tuymen, Russia (central Siberia): one hour of sleep and then it is off to preach

III. Home and 17 hours of sleep without waking up (was I really that tired?)

IV. Prayer Requests

A. The empowerment of the preaching and teaching of God's 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."

John 17:17

"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."

B. Stamina : Not only do we have a challenging schedule, but as the missionary Blake Purcell told us, "Living in Siberia is just exhausting - the sever cold, wind, ice, snow, the darkness, the very weight of boots and clothing, getting around, it all takes a toll" Please claim my son Sam's verse for while he served the Lord in the military. Now that he is out I am sure he will not mind me latching on to it here in Siberia...

Isaiah 40:31

"Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

C. Ravil met us at the airport with, "I have a list of 100 questions, when can we start meeting?" Each afternoon Ravil and Julia meet with us for lunch and beyond for several hours of Q & A. I feel a great burden to keep all my answers centered upon the Bible. Please claim... Proverbs 2:6-7

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and

understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,"

James 1:5

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

D. As we speak in an "unknown tongue" - English, that God would grant us translators with the gift of "interpretation" from English to Russian, that they would communicate not just our words but the deep meanings of the great doctrines of grace and of the Word of God. The Word of God teaches - 1 Corinthians 14:8-11

"For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me."

God the Holy Spirit is not speaking here of so called "angelic tongues" of prayer and those who claim to be able to interpret this so called "mystery language of angles" but rather the divine ability to speak languages and to translate for missionaries. Pray for our translator Pavil, a zealous member of the church to be given divine ability to translate our messages. As a missionary, when I think of the wasted time many churches spend on the so-called gift of "angelic languages" when they could be producing men and women gifted in languages so that the world might hear the gospel in its native tongue, my blood begins to boil - but that is another sermon for another time. For now, pray for my translator.

Dear Prayer Warriors, (This dispatch is being banged out in the heat of the battle so please look beyond, typos, grammar and spell check miscues...)

Praise God, by your prayers we arrived safely in Tuymen at 4:30 a.m. after an all night flight from St. Petersburg. There waiting for us was Pastor Ravil and his wife Julia. You remember Pastor Ravil from your prayer ministry during his days as a seminary student at the Reformed Seminary in St. Petersburg, Russia. Upon receiving his first study Bible, supplied by you our support team he could not take it from its wrapping but held it to his heart saying over and over, "Spasibah, Spasibah, Bolshoi Spasibah" - "Thank you, thank you, with great magnificence thank you" Pastor Ravil is a true man of God's Word and has been faithfully leading his little flock this past year through a verse by verse study of first Ephesians, then I and II Timothy and lastly I Thessalonians. You remember as well pictures of us doing marriage e counseling with him and Julia. Julia was an active member

of the Reformed Church of St. Petersburg. Now they minister the gospel together in Siberia. Isn't his what it is all about? Isn't this the goal. Young Russian men trained and equipped in the faith, marrying Russian women strong in their walk with God and commitment to the local church, going out to minister to Russians, in Russian, raising up strong Christ centered, Bible believing Russian churches!?! Praise God for the fruit of this ministry and for the part you so faithfully have played. In addition to this found reunion our hearts almost burst with joy when we saw all the materials and supplies for the church arriving un-tampered with and undamaged. This is a first for our ministry in Russia and we lay all the credit at the feet of our sovereign Lord and you our prayer warriors. Not one item stolen, broken or damaged. Not one dollar extorted nor taken in usurious fees. Every step of the way was smoothly prepared by you and we are so thankful for your ministry of intercession. All materials and electronic equipment for the church arrive safely

I was so excited about seeing Ravil that I wondered if I would be able to sleep before the service. I did not have to worry about that because by the time we were situated in our guest room there was time for a one hour nap before heading off to preach. I could feel the sustaining power of your prayers. The church had voted to hold two back to back preaching services and to extend each service by 30 minutes to allow maximum exposure for the members. In addition they voted to hold Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday night services as well as half day Saturday. We praise God for two things. First for a young church so zealous to hear God's Word and second for a prayer team which will support us during arduous schedules. I am reminded of Exodus 17:10-13

"And Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword"

When God sent the children of Israel to battle he had two key men aid in keeping Moses' hands uplifted in intercession that victory might come about. As he held his hands in prayer they prevailed, but he became weary and the battle turned.. They placed a rock for support and then two men stood with him holding his hands aloft. This "Rock" is still the key to victory in battle and you our prayer warriors kept the Sword of the Spirit uplifted through your prayers, despite our weariness. By your prayers the preached "Sword of the Spirit" prevailed and will continue to prevail! We hardly noticed the fatigue till we got home at 3p.m. We fell asleep on the couch

at 3:30 and did not stir or wake till 7:30 the next morning. (Yes, the couch - ever mindful that we are here to minister and that we are spending God's money that you so sacrificially provide we stay in the homes or apartments of nationals when we travel.)

We are having a glorious time here as people eagerly seek to study and apply the Word of God. Blake Purcell, a graduate of Texas A & M University founded this seminary on the foundation of the inerrant Word of God and you can see the fruits of that emphasis, that training in this church. Eleanor spent Monday night with a group of women on the Biblical Role of the Wife and Mother. Tuesday I presented two one hour evening sessions on the Authority and Supremacy of the Word of God. Thursday and Friday night I speak on Biblical Principles of Child-raising and then a half day on Saturday - The Marriage Covenant. After that, a parting meal, pack and off to the airport for the all night flight back to St. Petersburg to arrive on Sunday morning in time to preach at the church in Pushkin.

We minister by the grace of God

And

By the effectual empowering prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int.

Tuymen, Siberia - 20 and clear skies



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three