

## Dispatch Two

**Picture 001** - "O Lord God bless this your holy, inerrant Word" Preaching on Romans 1:16 at the Reformed Church in Pushkin.

**Picture 002** - Brrrr, keeping warm after the Sunday service in Pushkin.

**Picture 003** - A Troika waits to be rented for a fun romp in the park

**Picture 004** - Classes were over early on Monday so I did not have to walk home in the dark.

Mahon: Russian Prayer Dispatch #2 - 02.06.07 A different life...

I. Being different or becoming different

II. An excerpt from my diary

III. One alien location is as good as another

IV. Everyman a missionary

V. Prayer Requests

A. Please claim I Corinthians 9:19-22 that we would let nothing stand

in the way of our communicating clearly the Word of God to the Russians to whom we minister. "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some."

B. Ask the Lord that the same clear perspective which yields a fervency for the Gospel and for the clear teaching of the Word of God would be found in our hearts as well. Please claim II Corinthians 5:5-11 "Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight-- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."

C. Ask the Lord to grant us the same faith as evidenced in Abraham in Hebrews 11:9-10 "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, ... for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

D. Pray that we would be faithful ambassadors of Christ and in so doing claim II Corinthians 5:20, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Dear Prayer Warriors,

It is a simple choice, either be different or become different. Either stay who you are and be different from everybody else or be the same to everybody else and become different to yourself. Either have others uncomfortable with you and be comfortable with yourself or have others comfortable with you and be uncomfortable with yourself. We make small adjustments like this in various social settings but never is it so dramatic as on the mission field.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some."

Perhaps an excerpt from my diary will help you understand this.

"One last walk though of the house. One last check in the bathrooms and kitchen. One last check of windows and doors. One last look at the alarm system. The alarm is set, the door is locked behind us and as the count down beep of the alarm system grows faint in the background we walk away from life as we know it. How does the King James put it, "to the barbarian I became a barbarian" and then "to the weak I became weak that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some". Life as we know it is left behind and our lives as we know them and as we live them are left behind. We loose that which is essentially us that we might save that which is alien to all we know and experience. In so doing we too become an alien - not just to family and friends, but even to ourselves. Thus we understand more fully that we are indeed aliens and exiles on this earth - waiting for our call to our true home. As we become aliens we no longer know ourselves and with that loss our knowledge of Christ and His kingdom

increases - it increases until we become determined to know nothing save Christ and Him crucified. All else becomes alien. As we give ourselves to our Lord we become ever more aliens abroad and at home waiting, waiting, waiting for the day when we are taken to our true home."

It is with this loss of a feeling of being at home here on earth that we are freed to serve the Lord on the mission field. One alien location is as good as another as we wait for that heavenly home. Thus, knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men. We give ourselves to training pastors, preaching the gospel and clearly teaching the holy and inspired Word of God.

As God the Holy Spirit so clearly expresses this in II Corinthians 5:5-11 "Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight-- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."

I think this is what Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators meant when he would say, "Everyman a missionary". If you indeed see yourself as a alien and exile here on earth, then wherever you are you are an ambassador for Christ, you are a missionary. I think this is one of the great benefits of missionary ventures, both short and long, it is that you come to view yourself as an alien. The mission field then begins at your doorstep. As you pray for us, that each time we step out of our apartment in St.

Petersburg , Russia that we would be faithful missionaries - we too will pray for you, that every time you step out of your front door, you too will be faithful missionaries. We will all be faithful missionaries until we are called home from service by our Lord. By faith, like Abraham we will live wherever we are as in a foreign land, looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God - preaching and teaching the Word of God to all who will listen. This is our duty here on earth, that foreign land in which we all reside...

Hebrews 11:9-10 "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, ... for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

I have included a few pictures of our life in this strange and wonderful land called Russia. It is our privilege to represent you here as we teach and preach the Word of God. We depend on your prayers and support and praise God for your faithfulness in this ministry.

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

By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
John and Eleanor Mahon  
St. Petersburg, Russia  
5F and snowing



**Picture One**



Picture Two



Picture Three



**Picture Four**