

Mahon: Russia Dispatch #5 - 02.06.08 - The Ministry of Intercession

Pictures

- 1_ Departing for Tuymen from St. Petersburg
- 2_ Tuymen Church Service - Pasha is once again my translator
- 3_ We spent six hours with Pastor Ravil and his wife Julia answering questions from his list. Two more such sessions are planned
- 4a & 4b_ Tuesday night mixed Bible study. On Thursday El will meet with the ladies while I will teach the weekly Men's Bible Study

In this dispatch...

The Power of your Prayers

- I. Safety in travels
- II. In preaching the Word of God
- III. In One on One Equipping of Ministers
- IV. In Teaching the Word of God
- V. Prayer Requests: As you pray for the topic please pray over the passage provided, claiming it's truths for our lives and our ministry

A. Safety In Travels

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.

B. Our Lives Would Be An Example

Philippians 1:18-20

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

C. The Empowerment of The Word of God

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

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.

D. Fearless In The Face of satan and Worldly Circumstances

Joshua 1:7-9

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."

E. Divine Provision For Material Needs To Fulfill Our Call

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

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.

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Safety In Travels:

Eleanor and I have often mentioned that we could sense a hedge of protection around us, as our intercessors prayed, and this trip has been no different. Safety is never far from our minds when on the mission field. We noticed that the airport in St. Petersburg was on high alert in terms of security checks. I have never seen things so tight. The fact that police were leading away men under arrest and shouts could be heard from various parts of the airport did not alleviate our concern. Yet by your prayers we moved through security and onto our flight with a smoothness rarely experienced and the Bibles and supplies for Ravil's church arrived undamaged and unmolested.

In a country like Russia where we do not speak the language this is always a concern - personal safety. Here in Tuymen we know of no native English

speakers and only a handful who can translate for us. Thus a simple event such as slipping and breaking your arm, being clipped by a car while crossing the street or being mugged at night becomes a major problem as we do not speak Russian and few speak English. We therefore ask you to faithfully pray for our safety as we teach and preach the holy, eternal, inerrant Word of God abroad. God the Holy Spirit reminds us in II Corinthians 2:11 "*...in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*" - and he has one and only one purpose in his "*schemes*" as revealed by God the Holy Spirit in I Peter 5:8 "*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" So, to be forewarned is to be forearmed and we ask that you intercede for us that we might continue to minister the Word of God safely and unhindered.

Preaching the Word of God

Eleanor and I have often mentioned that we could sense our intercessors empowering our messages through their prayers and this last Sunday was no different. Our plane from St. Petersburg was delayed an hour so we sat in the airport from 11 p.m. to midnight. waiting for it to be cleared. Then came the flight to Tuymen, arriving at 5:30 in the morning. Once we collected our baggage and were in our room it was 6:30 a.m.. Ravil was to pick us up at 9 a.m. so we had just enough time to catch a couple hours sleep before needing to get up and get going. There was a full ministry schedule with two preaching services scheduled. The first was on the Doctrine of Propitiation and the second, "How To Love God When You Don't". All stayed for both services with fellowship, tea and snacks and Q & A time afterwards. We returned to our room at 4 p.m. to fall into bed. During this demanding schedule Eleanor I both functioned with amazing freshness and clarity of mind. We can only attribute that to your empowering prayers and we praise God for the faithfulness in which you sustained us. Your prayers remind us of the ministry of Moses in Exodus 17:11-12 "*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 you our intercessors sustained us and gave us strength and we were able, by your prayers, to faithfully minister the Word of God.

One on One Equipping of Ministers

Eleanor and I have often mentioned that we could sense our intercessors as we grapple "on the fly" so to speak with important life issues. One of our most fruitful time in the ministry is spending one on one times with young ministers grappling over issues from the Word of God. Our minds race to recall Scriptures and keep the discussion centered upon the holy, eternal, inerrant Word of God

and it is in times like these that we rely heavily upon your intercessions. As we equip and train young ministers you, through your prayers, equip and bring to mind the Word of God. How we praise God for your faithfulness in praying for the empowerment of the Word of God in our ministry.

Teaching the Word of God

Eleanor and I have often mentioned that we could sense our intercessors as we teach the Word of God. We are often in situations where we do not know the needs nor the spiritual level of the small groups to which we are teaching God's Word. In such situations I take comfort from the book of Colossians, for Paul had never himself visited this church personally, yet here is one of the great New Testament books as inspired by God the Holy Spirit. God's Word is effective apart from the knowledge of the spiritual condition of those to whom we minister. We have but to faithfully teach as you faithfully pray and God's Word and God's Holy Spirit will do the rest. This is what we seek to do, faithfully teach the holy, inerrant, eternal, written Word of God believing that the Word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God, will always accomplish the purpose for which God draws the hearers together and for which God sends out His Word. After last night's Bible study on Philippians 2:1 - 8 my translator pulled me aside,

"Did you know any of these people?"

- "No"

"Were you aware of the problems they were facing?"

- "No"

"Were you aware of the sins with which they were struggling?"

- No

"Well it is amazing. Tonight you poked every person in this room in the eye with the Word of God." (and then he made a motion with his thumb to the eye as he hugged me with one of those big Russian bear hugs, thanking me for teaching God's Word so clearly). Pastor Ravil also thanked me profusely saying that much good had resulted, a sister who was considering leaving the church had been saved from a bad decision and that many in the group had expressed repentance from personal sins. This can only be a result of your empowering prayers as God's Holy Spirit through God's Holy Word works in the lives of those who hear.

Now as always we minister...

Eleanor and I have often mentioned that we are constantly aware of the fact that we minister now, as always...

By the grace of God

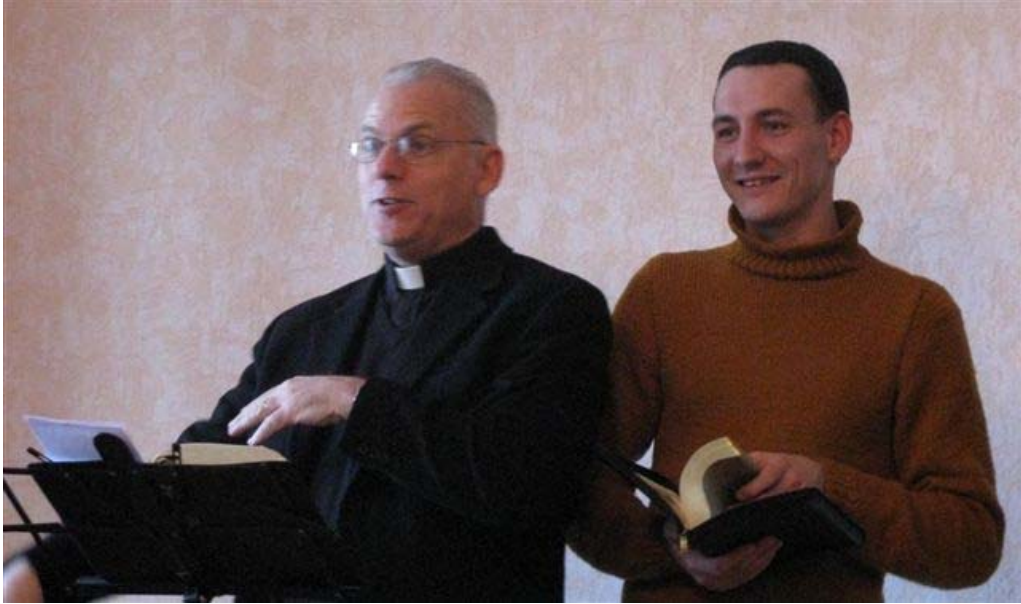
And

By the faithful and sacrificial intercessions of your our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int.
Tuymen, Siberia
-17 and snowing hard



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture 4a



Picture 4b