

## **Mahon: Russia Dispatch #4 - 01.28.08 - The Sower Sows The Word**

First let me apologize for the delay in sending out this dispatch. Thieves stole the copper cable leading into the apartment complex and the entire area has been without internet for a number of days. By God's grace and your prayers we are back on line.

### **Pictures**

**1\_ "O Lord Bless Your Holy Word..."** This is our ministry, the Word of God. It's lofty position is always before us and before those to whom we minister.

**2\_ Pastor Oleg of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pushkin.** Here Pastor Oleg poses proudly with his new McArthur study Bible and McArthur Commentaries on Ephesians and I Timothy. Not only do we preach God's holy Word but we seek to place in the hands of all to whom we minister the holy Word of God and the tools necessary for their ministry of the Word.

**3\_ Seminary students in St. Petersburg during my daily lectures.** Preparing the next generation of pastors by grounding them in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word is a central part of our ministry.

**4\_ Mr. Warr's Legacy:** Just as businessman Gene Warr provided me as a young student with Bibles and Bible study aids which I could never have bought myself, so I take the students every year to the book shop where they buy commentaries and Bibles for their future ministry.

**5\_ More is caught than taught:** Afterwards we stopped for coffee and Belini. During this time of informal conversation many deeper personal life issues come to the surface as I minister God's Word to these earnest and eager young seminary students.

### **In this dispatch...**

**I. The Sower Sows The Word**

**II. "O Lord Bless Your Holy Word..."**

**III. Pastor Oleg of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pushkin.**

**IV. Seminary students in St. Petersburg.**

**V. Mr. Warr's Legacy:**

**VI. More is caught than taught:**

**VII. Prayer Requests: Please claim the following verses for our ministry in the coming weeks as we preach and teach God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word in St. Petersburg and then on into Siberia.**

➤ *Ephesians 6:17-20 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,...that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

➤ *Colossians 1:25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,*

- *Colossians 4:3-4 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ... in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.*
- *II Thessalonians 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.*
- *2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

It is summed up succinctly and with the clarity that only Jesus could bring to the ministry - "The sower sows the Word" (Mark 4:14) This is our ministry. This is what we are, this is what we do, by this we sink or swim - the ministry of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

It is our constant prayer. It is the one blessing that we earnestly and consistently present before God - "O Lord, Bless Your Holy Word..." This is our ministry, the Word of God. It's lofty position is always before us and before those to whom we minister. We are not fancy, we are not sophisticated about it and in some ways we are a little rough hune at times. Teaching and preaching the Word of God - walking and sowing, sowing and walking - nothing to fall back on, no rotation of crops, no side endeavors, the sown Word of God is all we know and it is all we do.

Pastor Oleg of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pushkin was once a student of mine and now pastors a church. I never come to Russia that he does not call upon me to preach and teach the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God to his flock. It is a great honor. As a senior Bill Roberson's home group from his church in Dallas, Texas provided pastor Oleg with a Scoffield Study Bible. This year that same home group provided every adult member of Pastor Oleg's church with a MacArthur Study Bible. In addition they supplied pastor Oleg with a McArthur study Bible and McArthur Commentaries on Ephesians and I Timothy. (I am afraid the selection of these two volumes reflects on my personal prejudices). Not only do we preach God's holy Word but we seek to place in the hands of all to whom we minister both the holy Word of God and the tools necessary for their ministry of the Word. This is an indescribable privilege, made possible by you our prayer warriors and support team, to provide Bibles and quality Bible study aids to those who would otherwise go without.

I am continually impressed by the quality and earnestness of the seminary students at the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary of Petersburg. When I walk into class they stand, no talking as they wait for the opening prayer, immediately pens and paper are out and they concentrate fully - taking notes, recording references and digesting the Word of God. Questions are always respectful and to the point. These are serious men preparing for the pastorate in a difficult country. They know what they are about and pursue it with the

zeal and concentration of men sure of their call and the price they will pay. Preparing the next generation of pastors by grounding them in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word is a central part of our ministry and I do not take lightly this privilege.

As a first year university student working two jobs and taking a full class load I had no extra funds for Bibles and Bible study aids. A businessman, Mr. Gene Warr would sometimes visit our campus to speak. At other times, when I was in Oklahoma City at a conference he would invite students into his office. During both occasions Mr. Warr would often provide me with a new Bible, a Bible reference work or great work of Theology. Just as businessman Gene Warr provided me as a young student with Bibles and Bible study aids which I could never have bought myself, so we seek to honor this legacy by taking students every year to the book shop to buy commentaries and Bibles for their future ministry. Just as during the four years of my university studies I saw the beginnings of a pastor's library take shape so it has been my privilege over the years to do the same for others. As I packed up Pastor Ravil's volumes for shipment to Siberia, Sergei one of the students commented on what a great blessing this ministry had been to him. I related to him the legacy of Mr. Warr in my life and then said to him, "One day, when you are a pastor and a grandfather, you may meet a young student preparing for the ministry. Perhaps you will take time to see that he has the Bibles and resources to prepare himself for such a lofty call." Sergei struck his fist to his heart and replied with deep sincerity, "I will, I will!"

It is often said that when it comes to discipleship, "More is caught than taught" I can think back on the times missionaries such as John Crawford, took time out at a conference or staff meeting to have a cup of coffee with me, sit and listen patiently to my questions and then answer them with the same patience. I remember how Dr. Ray Tallman who directed my Masters studies at Moody Bible Institute would often eat lunch with me or have me in his home. These were important times, these informal times over God's Word with men much my senior in life and ministry. I try to honor their generous and gracious hearts by doing the same. After shopping at the bookstore with the students we stopped for coffee and Belini outside the subway station where hearts began to open and questions began to fly. During this time of informal conversation many deeper personal life issues come to the surface as I minister God's Word to these earnest and eager young seminary students.

We praise God for the unspeakable privilege of being a sower of the Word and we are ever mindful that this ministry is made possible by you our prayer warriors - through your sacrificial gifts and earnest and effectual prayers. We minister therefore now as always by the grace of God and your faithful intercessions on our behalf.

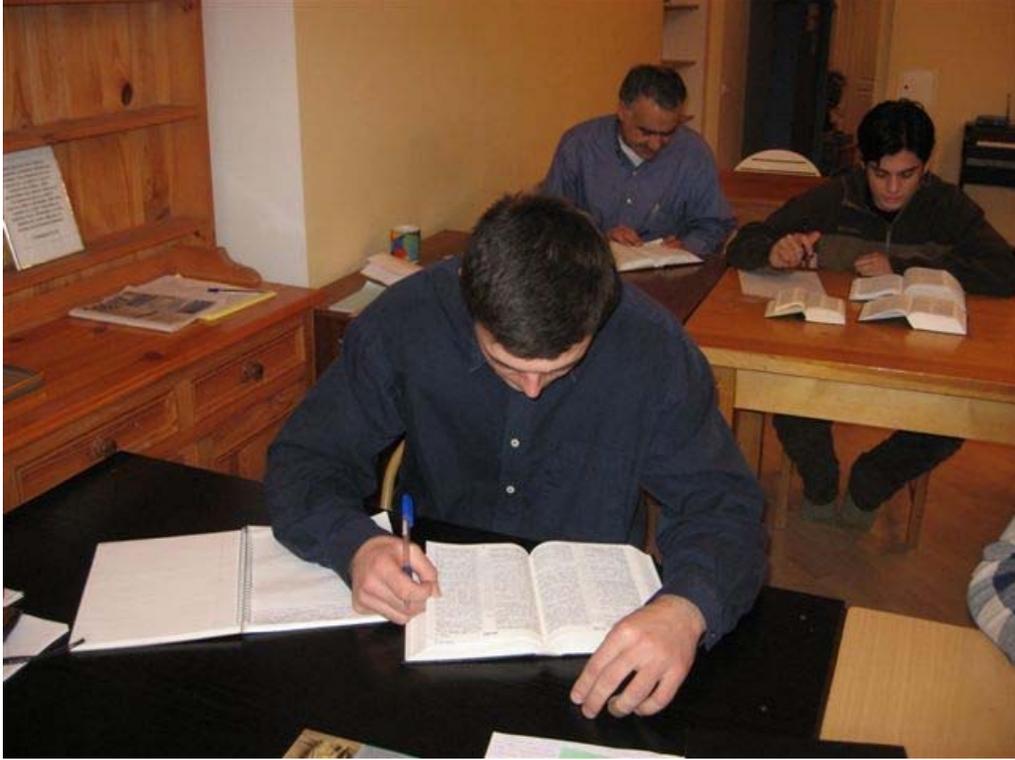
By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
Rev. John S. Mahon  
Grace Community Int.  
Sowing the Word of God in St. Petersburg, in Siberia and points east



**Picture One**



**Picture Two**



**Picture Three**



Picture Four



Picture

Five