

Mahon: Russia Dispatch # 7- 02.13.08 - "... for her worth is far above jewels."

Pictures

A_ Packing Party

B_ Departing for Tuymen

C_ El's Ministry of Hospitality

D_ The Fruits of this Ministry

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In this dispatch: A walkthrough of Eleanor's ministry through pictures...

I. Introduction: The unspeakable blessing of Eleanor as my wife...

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VI. El Teaches the "Evange-Cube" and Scripture Memory

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VIII. Prayer Requests: As you pray for Eleanor please pray over Titus 2:4 - 5 for her teaching ministry to the younger women, wives and mothers to whom she ministers.

Titus 2:3-5

- *"...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."*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Transitions are always a time of reflection. We are closing our ministry here in Siberia. We are preparing to return to St. Petersburg, then on to Finland, Lithuania and by God's grace - Belarus.

Ministering in foreign lands, in a difficult climate, where communication both here and abroad can be difficult - this would be trying for anyone. It is at these times that I realize what a godly, Christ centered woman I have had the supreme privilege of calling my wife.

From start to finish Eleanor's spiritual footprint is to be found in all that God does in our ministry and I would like to walk you through a series of pictures which illustrate not

only her considerable gifts and talents but also her loving, devoted and sacrificial spirit - traits so rare in the world today.

A_ Packing Party

You can imagine what goes into putting a house in order before leaving on a three to four month mission trip. Now imagine doing this two or three times a year. Now imagine doing this as a lifestyle, year in and year out. Now imagine in addition to this putting in order the administrative details of the ministry. Now imagine packing up the office and preparing to transport it with you on the mission field. Now imagine running the missions administrative details "on the fly" as you travel from city to city and country to country, never knowing where your duties will be carried out. Last but not least imagine doing this with a cheerful, submissive, godly heart as you leave beloved children and grandchildren behind. This is the woman, a woman whose worth is beyond any calculable wealth, with whom the Lord has blessed me, His unworthy servant. You may question many things about me, but never question my intelligence. I was smart enough to marry Eleanor - that should be enough in any circle.

B_ Departing for Tuymen

At a time when women are settling back to enjoy the fruits of a life time of sacrificial service to God, church and family Eleanor is found waiting in a cold dark airport, it is past midnight, the police are escorting drunks out, shouts can be heard somewhere in the background, security is high, the temperature is minus "acheycold", there is nothing familiar nor anything to give one a sense of stability nor security - yet here stands my wife by my side. Not a word of worry nor complaint will be found in her mouth. A word of prayer, an appropriate verse quoted, standing by her husband, pictures of her little darlings (her grandchildren) and her son and daughters, safely in her hand bag, her Bible clutched firmly in her hand, she is ready to go and serve wherever the Lord takes me.

C_ El's Ministry of Hospitality

Wherever we go Eleanor blesses the ministry through her ministry of hospitality. If we were both to be eaten by cannibals, I promise you she would supply a side dish and desert. She can compile and spread a feast in any country in the world. One thing our children are unanimous about - when Eleanor is by my side, no matter how long we are gone, I come back healthier, more rested and more cared for than when she is not. The Word of God says, "It is not good for man to be alone..." and I have found this to be true. I know of many missionaries, both short term and long term, whose wives simply refuse to stand by their side. I praise God for the unspeakable gift of a wife who views her ministry to be her husband and God's will for her location to be determined by his side.

D_ The Fruits of this Ministry

A qualification of an elder is that he practice hospitality. I praise God for a wife who makes this possible. I can remember the informal times with Dr. Tallman in his home during my work on my Masters at Moody Bible Institute, his wife Marge whipping something up for us as we discussed deep matters from the Word. I can remember will the informal times at the table of John and Helen Crawford - missionaries from New Zealand, John sharing from his heart, Helen laying out the tea and snacks. Because of

Eleanor I can pass this blessing onto the ministers and students to whom I minister. As we ate this "feast" Ravil recounted to the men how when he was a single seminary student Eleanor would have the class over and fix lunch for them. These were important times of bonding and it is Eleanor and Eleanor alone who makes possible this important facet of my ministry.

E_ El Teaches the "Evange-Cube" and Scripture Memory

Wherever we go Eleanor can be found teaching the Word of God to women. She is an encourager of the wives of missionaries and national pastors. She is an equipper of women teachers and evangelists and she is a discipler of the younger women - both in their walks with God and in their roles as godly wives and mothers. Here Eleanor teaches the ladies study she has been leading here in Tuymen the use of an evangelistic tool called the Evange-Cube. In doing so she models Scripture memory, her verse pack in open view nearby she quotes all the verses that go with the tool word perfect. Eleanor's Bible, Eleanor's Quite Time Notebook and Eleanor's Verse Pack will never be found out of reach. How I praise God for such a godly wife who has such a love for the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

F_ The Fruits of this Ministry

A picture is worth a thousand words. This scene has been repeated all over the world. Women hearing, reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God as a result of Eleanor's ministry - both in word and in deed.

Eleanor has a broad multifaceted ministry. Her ministry to her husband, her administrative duties with GCI, her ministry of witnessing and personal evangelism, her ministry of teaching the Word to women and her ministry of encouragement to younger staff and missionary wives, her ministry of modeling the roles of a godly woman, wife and mother to all to whom her life touches.

This last ministry is so important. Titus 2:3 - 5 teaches so clearly that the integrity of the ministry of the Word is dependant upon a generation of older women preparing the next generation of younger women for their roles as godly wives and mothers, ***"Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, 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."***

We live in an age where many of those lifted up as examples to our daughters not only fail to model these words but are actually embarrassed by them. In many churches they are reserved for a select few of "stay at home moms" or "home school moms" or "soccer moms"; the single women being raised as spiritual eunuchs without reference or training for their future roles as godly wives and mothers.

Eleanor's ministry runs counter to this trend and I praise God for a wife who will stand against the tide holding fast to the Word of God and using it as the only measure for what she believes, teaches and models.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
Rich beyond my wildest dreams because of the Eleanor my jewel, my ruby, my pearl, my
life, my joy, my helpmate and MY WIFE!!!



Picture A



Picture B



Picture C



Picture D