

Mahon: Russia Dispatch #6 - 02.11.08 - Marriage Seminar and Family Discipleship Seminar

Pictures

1_ Out and About at -30: Despite a heavy ministry schedule El and I try to get out for a walk every day. Here we ducked out a noon for a 30 minute walk in the park. Notice the angle of the shadows and the sun - "High Noon" in Siberia. It will now begin it's decent.

2_ The Marriage Covenant Seminar: The church rented a special room for this event and the turnout did not disappoint. No matter the subject my prayer is always the same, "Oh Lord God, bless the teaching and preaching of Your holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word..."

3_ A Growing Church Library: At the Marriage Covenant Seminar we were able to present the church with a number of volumes for their growing church library. This is a burden of mine, to give young ministers and laymen the Bibles and aids necessary to carry out the tasks to which they are exhorted from the Word of God.

4_ The Family Discipleship Seminar: No matter the culture or time the Word of God holds the answers to our questions - especially as regards to the family. Here I exhort from Romans 1:24, 26, 28., 29 -32. What did God do? What characterizes these people? What about children? What will you do to deliver your child from this class of people?

5_ Pastor Ravil Receives The Word of God: Pastor Ravil receives his copy of the McArthur Study Bible along with the other members of his church during the morning service. If you could have only been there to see the excitement and gratitude. With tears welling in his eyes, Sasha, one of the elders said to me as he received his Bible, "We always wonder if anyone knows we are here. Our little church in the heart of Siberia, but then our American brothers and sisters send us you to teach the Word and send us our own copies of the Bible and then we know that we are not alone!"

In this dispatch...

- I. Our Ministry: The Word of God
- II. Marriage Seminar and Family Discipleship Seminar
- III. Placing the Word of God in the hands of men and women
- IV. Prayer Requests: As you pray over the passages, ask God to make them true in our lives and our ministry...

A. God's Word would accomplish it's purpose

Hebrews 4:12-16

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

B. Fruit which would last

John 15:16

16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

C. Faithful in personal evangelism

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

D. Raise up men who desire to preach and teach the Word of God

2 Timothy 2:1-3

*1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*

E. Add to the church of Tuymen

Acts 16:5

5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Thank you for your faithful prayers. They have certainly been answered and we praise God for your standing shoulder to shoulder with us as we minister in Siberia.

As you pray for us please continue to lift us up as it pertains to the preaching and teaching of God's holy, inerrant, eternal, written Word. This is our ministry and we look to you to empower and sustain us in this calling. One of the key platforms from which we instruct from the Word of God is our Marriage Seminar and the Family Discipleship Seminar. God continues to bless this ministry as young couples hear, sometimes for the first time, the Biblical principles of marriage and family. It was exciting to see many couples returning for a "refresher" and the questions asked during the Q & A time revealed an earnest desire by these young couples to address the problems they are facing from the Word of God. The Russian work week is often six or seven days without a let up. It was a great encouragement therefore to meet men who were unable to attend the conference with their wives last year, yet had listened to the lectures over and over again at home and showed a thorough knowledge of the principles as they were presented from the Word of God.

I could not be more encouraged at Pastor Ravil's devotion to the teaching of the Word of God and the maturity of his flock. There was a marked difference in their understanding and grasp of the Word of God and I attribute this to his faithful exposition of the Word of God. He and his young wife's commitment to Scripture memory is also being transferred to this equally young church. They are continuing in their daily quiet times alone with God and proudly brought their Quite Time Workbooks, to show that they were complete and that they had earned their own personal copy of the McArthur Study Bible in Russian.

Tonight we are having a special meeting of the men in the church to discuss Personal Evangelism. Pastor Ravil and I spent three hours over the Word this morning on this subject and we hope to make real progress with the men tonight. I will pass on to you a report on this as soon as it takes place.

As for now know that your prayers are being answered.

Saturday's Marriage Seminar had excellent attendance and I could not have been more pleased with the zeal and earnestness of the young couples who came.

We had a great Sunday morning service. I preached on Hebrews 12:10 & 11 and the Word of God was not only delivered by preaching and teaching but it was also placed in the hands of those who are serious about spending daily time alone with God.

Sunday afternoon the Family Discipleship Seminar as equally well attended with many first time visitors (for which the church had been praying) as well as husbands who had previously not been attending. This was a great encouragement to pastor Ravil. I could feel the power of your prayers as I taught the Word and there were many who were convicted of sin who stayed afterwards for counseling, Q & A and prayers..

Our time now in Siberia is drawing to a close. Already Pastor Ravil is pressing us to stay longer next visit. Many warm reunions are now being equaled by warm goodbyes. It may be -10 and snowing here in Siberia but our hearts are warmed by the love of this young church, their earnest desire to know God's Word and the zeal of their young pastor and his wife in shepherding them in a difficult and trying location.

Please continue to pray for us that we would minister faithfully and bless those around us up until the very moment we step on the plane. We labor, whether here in Siberia or across the world, as always

By the grace of God

And

By the effectual and earnest prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
John and Eleanor Mahon
Tuymen, Siberia
-10 (Snowed hard this morning but now a beautiful blue sky for the last hours of
sunlight.)



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three

