

## **Mahon Home Dispatch #14 11.05.10 “That you may know about us...”**

**Pictures:** This our 42<sup>nd</sup> Dispatch on this mission trip and number 14 from Russia. This means we have sent you over 100 real time pictures of your prayer ministry at work. Making you our prayer warriors a very real part of our mission endeavors is very important to us. That is why we work so hard at supplying you both with real time prayer requests and the pictures necessary for you to feel a vital part of the missionary team.

### **1\_Down the street from the seminary is an apartment that Lenin kept in St. Petersburg.**

He of course is burning in Hell. (For an update on Lenin’s condition please refer to Revelation 14:10 & 11.) Meanwhile in St. Petersburg the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God continues to advance. I am reminded of this because just this morning I read Nahum in my Daily Quiet Time Alone With God. Nahum 1:9 stands out as an enduring truth *“Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a complete end of it...”*

**2\_Bible Shopping with Seminary student and Sasha.** Today, because of your gifts I was able to take seminary student Sergei and my translator Pastor Sasha shopping for new Bibles. We passed by Lenin’s plank. It is just a few blocks down from the seminary and I pass it almost every day as I head to the Metro (subway). It is a constant reminder that while the author of state atheism burns in Hell, the author of all life continues to carry out His sovereign will not only in Russia but throughout the world. It reminds me of a verse from a message I first heard preached by Mike Treener. Mike is now the International Director of the Navigators but at the time we were both young staff, he on his first missionary assignment to Nigeria and me on my first staff assignment at Texas A & M University. His conference message was from Psalm One. We were staff roommates at the conference and we sat up well past midnight talking over this passage

*Psalms 2:1-4 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.*

**3\_ Sasha cannot wait to look at his new study Bible.** He was elated as they have just come out with a new Russian study Bible full of charts, maps and graphics.

**4\_Tradition Maintained - after Bible shopping stop for Blinhy and Coffee.** For over ten years Sasha and I have maintained this tradition. We take students shopping for Bibles and then we stop and have Blinhy, coffee and fellowship over the good times we have shared together equipping Russian students and pastors to preach and teach the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

For Daily Quiet Times, Bible Studies, Messages and Pictures visit our website at [www.gciweb.org](http://www.gciweb.org) (simply place your cursor on the link then control + click)

In this dispatch...

- I. The Nature of Our Dispatches
- II. Ephesians 6:18 -22, guiding principles of the missions team
- III. The first conviction: the primacy of intercessory prayer
- IV. The second conviction: the need for prayer warriors to be kept updated
- V. Modern day Tychicuses ...
  - A. To mobilize prayer
  - B. “That you might know about us” – our needs, ministry and coming mission trips
  - C. “That we might comfort you hearts” – God is on the throne, men and women are turning to Christ, the ministry is expanding and your sacrifices are reaping great rewards.
- VI. Prayer Requests (as you petition God please pray over and meditate on the passage from God’s holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word)
  - A. **Prayer Warriors:** That God would continue to raise up prayer warriors who will co-labor with us in the ministry.

*Isaiah 62:6-7*

*6 On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves;*

*7 And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

- B. **Support Team:** Ask the Lord as well, that as our ministry expands, so too with our support team.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.*

*7 Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*

- C. **Stamina:** Pray for stamina as we minister amidst a challenging schedule and pace, across cultural lines, across time zones (where for our poor brains day is night and night is day), often in unfriendly or challenging situations and environments – all of which takes a toll on our physical and emotional reserves. I am sure my Sam son will not object to my giving you one of his favorite Bible verses to claim for us as we minister God’s Word on foreign fields...

*Isaiah 40:29-31 “He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”*

**D. Communication:** Ask God to keep the lines of communication open. We are very vulnerable in this area as in many parts of the world not only is the internet slow and unpredictable but equally so are the phone lines and often surface mail is out of the question. Ask the Lord to keep the lines of communication open and to give our support team patience when they are not.

**E. Finances:** Pray also for the finances necessary to carry on this ever expanding ministry. Our need does not arise from any shortfall but rather from a continual and constant growth. *Proverbs 14:4 teaches, "Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much increase comes by the strength of the ox."* So too in the ministry, with the blessing of God comes an increase in responsibility and work. Pray with us as we seek to keep the "manger" in order here at GCI as God continues to bless with increases in ministry.

**Philippians 4:18-19**

**18** *But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

**19** *And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

We are often asked about our philosophy of communicating with our prayer warriors. We take our prayer warriors just as seriously as our support team. That is why both our support team and our prayer warriors receive monthly surface mail updates on the ministry. That is why both our support team and our prayer warriors receive real time email dispatches from the very epicenter of ministry activity.

In fact the most frequent way you hear from us is from our prayer dispatches. These are pounded out in real time from the front of the battle. Often late at night, after a full day of ministry I send out these reports with pictures that you might labor with us in real time. As a result they are rough hewn with only a marginal attempt to put them in spelling and grammatical order. The need of the hour being to get these out to you in a timely manner while phone lines and communication avenues are open.

I thought it might be timely to revisit our Biblical philosophy of communication with you our co-laborers in the harvest fields of the world.

When Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians he reveals two important convictions concerning the ministry of the missionary.

**Ephesians 6:18-22**

**18** *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,*

*19 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,*

*20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

*21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.*

*22 And I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.*

We too hold to these convictions...

The first conviction is found in verses 18 – 20...

*18 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,*

*19 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,*

*20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

That his ability to minister the gospel on foreign fields was directly linked to the faithfulness of his prayer warriors in standing with him in prayer and empowering his ministry through prayer.

This also is a deeply held conviction of both Eleanor and me. We sincerely believe with all our heart that our ability to minister is directly linked to the earnest and effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors and support team. We too appeal to you, as Paul did to the Ephesians, *“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...”*

The second conviction we believe is equally important and is found in verses 21 & 22...

*21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.*

*22 And I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.*

We believe, like Paul, that for you our prayer warriors and support team to labor effectively with us on the mission field through your prayers and gifts - that we must communicate with you and keep you clearly informed of the ministry for which you are praying.

We do this a number of ways.

**First: through regular email dispatches** such as this that you may be involved in real time ministry events. These are rough hewn documents banged out in the midst of the battle. Usually late at night or early in the morning, sent to you as real time prayer requests that you might participate immediately and directly with us in the ministry. Time is not spent in editing and perfecting these dispatches. Usually I am fighting the clock, trying to get the dispatch out before the line goes bad or the some government computer program picks up on a key word or phrase and shuts it down automatically. These are not works of art or literature but dispatches from the front lines of the battle.

**Second: through monthly surface mailings** where you receive the “big picture” prayer requests that deal with more sweeping principles and issues in our ministry. These are not limited to our support team, but all who participate in our ministry – both those who pray and those who give are taken with equal seriousness in terms of their co-labor ship with us in the harvest fields of the world.

**Third: through a yearly “friends and family tour”** where we seek to personally make contact with you and bring this dynamic and exciting ministry right into your home or church. During our last “tour” we traveled over 4,000 miles through five states for the simple reason that it is our conviction that as many of our co-laborers as it is humanly possible, should be offered an opportunity to hear first hand of their ministry throughout the world.

**We do these things not as a part of some intricate marketing strategy** but rather out of a deep conviction centered in the Word of God that you who pray for our ministry and those who support it financially are equal partners with us in all that we do both when at home and when on the mission field. We do not take lightly your personal sacrifice to be pray for and support this ministry. It is a privilege and joy to be on the team with you and we take your ministry very seriously.

We do all this for the same reason and with the same conviction that Tychicus set out on his perilous journey...  
To mobilize prayer...

*“That you might know about us”* – our needs, ministry and coming mission trips  
*“That we might comfort your hearts”* – God is on the throne, men and women are turning to Christ, the ministry is expanding and your sacrifices are reaping great rewards.

I close this email as always with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
Rev. John S. Mahon  
Grace Community Int. -

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

*(Psalms 104:33-34 “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.”)*

### **Softly And Tenderly**

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling for you and for me

Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching  
Watching for you and for me

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading  
Pleading for you and for me  
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies  
Mercies for you and for me*

Oh for the wonderful love He has promised  
Promised for you and for me  
Though we have sinned  
He has mercy and pardon  
Pardon for you and for me

*Come home come home  
Ye who are weary come home  
Earnestly tenderly Jesus is calling  
Calling O sinner come home*

(William Thompson Born: November 7, 1847, East Liverpool, Ohio; Died: September 20, 1909, New York, New York. Both a lyricist and composer, he ensured he would always remember words or melodies that came to him at odd times: “No matter where I am, at home or hotel, at the store or traveling, if an idea or theme comes to me that I deem worthy of a song, I jot it down in verse. In this way I never lose it.” When the world-renowned lay preacher, Dwight Lyman Moody, lay on his death bed in his Northfield, Massachusetts, home, Will Thompson made a special visit to inquire as to his condition. The attending physician refused to admit him to the sick-room, and Moody heard them talking just outside the bedroom door. Recognizing Thompson’s voice, he called for him to come to his bedside. Taking the Ohio poet-composer by the hand, the dying evangelist said, “Will, I would rather have written “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” than anything I have been able to do in my whole life.”)



Picture One



Picture Two



**Picture Three**



**Picture Four**