

Mahon Lithuania - Belarus - Ukraine - Russia (St. Petersburg Today / Tomorrow Tyumen) - Japan Dispatch #08 03.29.10 / The Uniforms Of Our Ministry

Quiet Time Alone With God - The Scriptures Belong To God

Bible Studies For Easter Week:

- 1_ Misconceptions Concerning Christ On The Cross Chart
- 2_ The Prophetic Significance of Psalm 22 And The Cross
- 4_ Jesus Knew Bible Study Chart
- 7_ Why have You forsaken Me - Compilation Study

Message of the week: Witnessing: He Went About Doing Good -
www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=42108141893

Each dispatch will include a direct link to a message preached by Rev. Mahon. Simply place your cursor (pointer) on the link and then control + click. This will take you to directly to the message as stored on SermonAudio.com. If this does not work then you can cut and paste the link to your web browser

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In this dispatch...

- I. The “uniforms” of our ministry**
- II. Comfort levels and the ministry of the gospel**
- III. An eye opening experience**
- IV. Prayer Requests: As you pray please allow the accompanying passage from the Word of God to guide your prayers...**

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

- A.** As you read this dispatch we are preparing once again to move to our next Macedonian Call (Acts 16:9). Pastor Ravil and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Tyumen, Russia (Siberia) has issued the call and we are responding. We depart Tuesday night from St. Petersburg, connect through Moscow and arrive Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. in Tyumen (Siberia). Please ask God for safety in travel as well as the safe arrival of the Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works which we will be carrying with us. We are also asking for grace and mercy in terms of excess baggage. Please claim...
Isaiah 41:9-10 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts And said to you, "You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I

am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

- B. That the truths of I Corinthians 9:19-23 would be found at work in our lives.
19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.
20 And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law;
21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.
22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.
23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
- C. That we would remain flexible amid the many changes and adjustments that regularly present themselves on mission trips such as this. – *“I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it”*
- D. That we would accept the hardships associated with the mission field as part of our calling to the ministry – *“though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more”*
- E. That as we mature in years we would also mature equally in our walk with God becoming more loving, more sacrificial and more pliable in the hands of God - that nothing we do nor say would come between those to whom we minister and the Word of God which we are called to teach and preach – doing *“all things for the sake of the gospel”*.
- F. That in every situation we would *“by all means save some”*. As you pray for us over this last principle from the Word of God, please pray also that we would...
I Corinthians 10:32-33
Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved.
II Corinthians 6:3-4
“giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God...”

Dear Prayer Warriors,
It is a long way from...

Houston Texas



St. Petersburg, Russian



and about to get a lot longer as we prepare to depart for Tyumen, deep in Siberia. This will literally be the far side of the world. A full 12 time zones from home...

The “uniforms” of our ministry

The above passage from our prayer requests (I Corinthians 9:19 – 23) gripped me early in my ministry experience. The phrase, “I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some” jumped off to page at me as a college student seeking to reach the many and varied international students in my dormitory and on my campus.

Change is a part of all ministries and it seems especially so of the mission field. As you receive our prayer dispatches you may notice that I appear in many different “uniforms”. At the Reformed Seminary of St. Petersburg the instructors wear clerical collars.

I often find myself in church settings where the clerical collar is not only accepted but expected of ministers. I remember speaking in a Lutheran church in India. Because I did not have a clerical collar I was asked to speak from the floor rather than the podium. The issue was not my ordination but rather that lack of professional dress. This is true in many denominations, there is an expectation of a clerical collar for ministers and I am happy to comply.



Clerical Collar - Marriage Seminar Tyumen Reformed Presbyterian Church, Russia



Clerical Collar Reformed Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg, Russia

In Nigeria formal occasions, such as church on Sunday call for the national attire. When teaching and preaching in many countries this is true and I am happy to do this as well.



Sunday in Nigeria John and Udobong Idemeter along with his family depart for church

In Belarus, Kenya, Japan as in many countries of the world pastors are expected to wear a coat and tie when they preach and again, I am happy to do this.



Coat and Tie Belarus as I preach the Word in Minsk

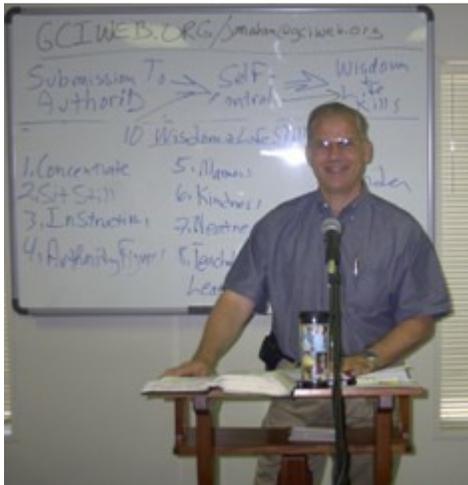


Coat and Tie - Sunday Service Ngong Hills NPC Kenya where I minister with Dr. Mukolwe

In the US both formal and informal attire is the norm. As I minister, especially in the western states, informal attire is becoming more and more popular among ministers and I am often asked to dress informally when speaking or presenting the Family Discipleship Seminar to churches in the US – again, I am more than happy to comply



Coat and Tie - Heritage Baptist Church Missions Conference



Causal San Antonio TX Conf teaching the FDS

Comfort levels and the ministry of the gospel

As I “mature” in my years I find myself more and more easily associating what is comfortable with what is Scriptural when very often the exact opposite is true. As I “mature” in my years I find in reality that what is uncomfortable is very often God’s will for both my life and my ministry. The Apostle Paul neither associated comfort with God’s will nor with the gospel.

For Paul, when it came to the discomfort of suffering, not even the doctrine of election freed the Christian from this sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. From his prison cell in II Timothy 2:10 he writes, ***“For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus together eternal glory.”***

For Paul, when it came to food, dress, customs and yes suffering, no sacrifice was too great if it created an opportunity for the gospel. Yet, as the years go by there is a tendency with maturity

to come inflexibility and a new and recent addition to my prayer notebook has been that God would keep me flexible and pliable as my years mature.

An eye opening experience

I experienced this principle early in my ministry in Houston. My son Sam had been witnessing to a Jewish boy who was in his class at school. When this boy went through his Bar Mitzvah he invited Sam and the rest of our family to the ceremony. It was an orthodox, very conservative synagogue. During the reception I noticed one of the men from our church, attired in orthodox garb talking excitedly and laughing with members of this synagogue. I immediately jumped to the conclusion that he was caught up in some type of sect or legalism and later asked him about it. His reply was that in I Corinthians 9:20 the Word of God commands, ***“to the Jews I became a Jew that I might win the Jews”*** he then made this statement to me “this is what I do to become a Jew to win the Jews, what do you do?” If I was honest I would have answered, “Oh, I just judge others...”. Once again God was challenging me to not allow my own comfort level come between me and the effective presentation of the gospel.

In the coming weeks, months and by God’s grace years we will continue to minister throughout Eurasia, Russia, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. As you pray for us ask that God would keep us flexible and responsive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the to peoples and cultures around us, that we would, ***“become all things to all men that we might by all means save some.”***

I close this e-mail 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.”)

Break Though The Bread Of Life

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread By Galilee;*

*Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, My all in all.*

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth That saveth me;
Give me to eat and live With Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.

*O send Thy Spirit, Lord, Now unto me,
That He may touch mine eyes, And make me see;
Show me the truth concealed Within Thy Word,
And in Thy Book revealed I see Thee Lord.*

(Mary Artemesia Lathbury; 1841-1913; Daughter of a Methodist minister. Active in the women's temperance movement and wrote for several Christian periodicals. Of her gift for poetry she said she felt the Lord had impressed upon her these thoughts concerning this, "Remember, my child, that you have a gift of weaving fancies into verse and a gift with the pencil of producing visions that come to your heart; consecrate these to Me as thoroughly as you do your inmost spirit.")