

**Mahon Dispatch #06 Lithuania - Belarus - Ukraine - Russia - Japan Dispatch  
03.17.10 - Nine Natural Seasons For Witnessing**

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  - A. Ask God to give us emotional, physical and spiritual strength as we minister in Russia. Pray that we will place our confidence in Christ and not in our failing fleshly bodies.  
*Isaiah 41:10 '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. Call unto God to empower our speech as we teach and preach the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God.  
*Isaiah 50:7-10 For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint , And I know that I will not be ashamed. He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will eat them. Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.*
  - C. Beseech the Lord of the Harvest, now that we have gone out, to continue supply us with the resources necessary to bless those to whom we minister.  
*Philippians 4:19-20 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*
  - D. Pray for me, that I would be faithful in my daily disciplines of Prayer Notebook, Bible Reading, Scripture Memory, Meditation, Bible study and Witnessing. That while preaching to others I

myself will not be negligent. That I would not exhort others to do that which I neglect.

*Matthew 23:4 They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.*

*1 Corinthians 9:27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

### Beautiful Spring Day In St. Petersburg



El and I out on a walk on a nice spring morning in St. Petersburg, Russia



Eleanor and Seminary Administrator Natasha get out of the office to have lunch and take a walk as it was so sunny and only 12F.

Greetings from the great city of St. Petersburg. It is a beautiful spring day - the sun is shining, it is about 15F and there is over three feet of snow on the ground. El is unpacking and sorting the supplies you faithfully prayed into this city. In the next weeks we will visit churches and supply them with Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works - as well as medical supplies and office supplies for national pastors and their families, missionaries and student workers. Today I will go and pick up the Bibles and Bible study materials in Russian that we

ordered before leaving next fall. These precious supplies are made possible by your faith and generosity and will be bearing fruit in the days, weeks and yes years to come. (When in Belarus I met a pastor still using his McArthur study Bible you supplied him five years ago. In Tyumen I met a women's Bible study leader still using the McArthur Study Bible you supplied her over six years ago.)

### **The Nine Natural Season of Witnessing**

*John 4:35-38 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."*

Today is St. Patrick's Day, a great day for witnessing. Coming up is Easter, another great day for witnessing. Eleanor and I have broken down our year into six natural seasons for witnessing. I have these on the pop up function of my Outlook Calendar in my computer and conscientiously sow and water with anticipation of reaping during each seasons of harvest. We sow and water and then reap during these seasons. Here they are for your consideration...

- I. **New Years:** On this day we have neighbors over for afternoon coffee, talk about the future, New Years Resolutions. This is a natural jumping off point to talk about the failure of past resolutions and the promise of Christ for a New Life.
- II. **Valentines Day:** Great time to talk with neighbors about the unconditional love of Christ. A key time for churches, Bible studies or home groups to have Sweet Heart Dinners with fun games and gospel presentation (always include child care!) A wonderful time for your children to send valentines cards to non-Christian relatives and include a New Testament or tract.
- III. **St. Patrick's Day:** Great time to have home party or children's part. St. Patrick is attributed to ridding Ireland from snakes. In reality he was a missionary who delivered Ireland from that evil serpent satan. Great time to talk about the victory Christ gives us over satan in a fun setting. Opening line to people at work or neighbors, "Do you know what St. Patrick's Day is really all about?". For your politically correct friends, "Our culture racially profiles the Irish every St. Patrick's Day. I did not realize this till I found out the true meaning of St. Patrick's

Day. Would you like to hear about it?" Being Irish myself I get a little weary of this holiday which depicts Irishmen as drunken buffoons and strike back at Satan by again driving the serpent out of this cultural holiday.

- IV. **Memorial Day:** Most people have forgotten that this is a day of remembrance of our military heroes. I use their sacrifice to lead the conversation to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. I also use it to send care packages with goodies, supplies, tracts and Testaments to our military heroes overseas.
- V. **Fourth of July:** What great time to discuss Victory In Jesus!?! Invite friends over for hotdogs and fireworks. When you pray for the meal be sure and thank Jesus for our country and the victory we have in him. Afterwards give a small backyard talk on Victory In Jesus.
- VI. **First Day of School:** There is no time of the year in our culture when parents are more vulnerable, more thoughtful about their marriage and parenting and more willing to start something new. Start a mothers/parents Bible study; start a new Sunday School class based on marriage or parenting; start a neighborhood home study on parenting; start a free home tutoring service for public school kids on your block. A safe place to come and study after school. Make sure Bible reading and prayer will be part of this free service.
- VII. **Halloween:** We always used this opportunity to host a Halloween Party for our children's school and neighborhood friends. We did a theme to regulate costumes (Animal; Noah's Ark; Bible Character; Cultural; Historical; etc. We did our Halloween Trivia Test (see website) and this always led to the opportunity to share the gospel. For years school and neighborhood parents would call us and say, "You are having your party again this year aren't you?" hoping to save their children from the usual events associated with this weekend.
- VIII. **Thanksgiving:** When in town we use this holiday to invite international non-Christians to dinner and teach them the true meaning of this holiday (Holy Day).
- IX. **Christmas Season:** Visits to the military recruiting stations with treats and testaments; visits to the police and fire stations with treats and Testaments; visits to all the merchants you frequent with a wrapped Testament and witness; Gospel Christmas Caroling (via the

Wesley brothers) with Testaments; Testaments and Candy Canes with the "Tradition of the Candy Cane by the front door for all who come your way; this and more. (For more ideas see our website)

*Matthew 9:36-38 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, " The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest ."*

You would be surprised at the number of people, who respond on hearing this, "That makes me tired just thinking about it. It just sounds like a lot of work." Well I guess that is why we are called "Laborers In The Harvest" and not "Celebrating Parties In The Harvest". Christ commanded us to pray that the church would be filled with hard working laborers concerned with the eternal destiny of the lost, not narcissistic partiers who will leave our church to join another which has the financial base to supply us with the level of entertainment and revelry which we have come to expect.

**What you can do today for us sense we are out of the country**

*Mark 9:41 "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward."*

One of the burden's I take with me when we go to the mission field is the loss or neglecting of certain ministries we have in the U.S.. These nine seasons are one, you can bless us by assuming them in our absence. Another is our habit of keeping Testaments, tracts and a coke or water bottle for all who come to our door (Pizza guy, repairmen, delivery men, etc) you can bless us by assuming this ministry in our absence. Last but not least is our ministry of sending boxes to Military, missionaries and national pastors. Do you have a youth group, AWANA's group, home school children, Christian school classroom, adult Sunday School or Bible study home group or just a family who would take up this ministry? Here are three opportunities below...

Easter will be here soon, would your family or ministry like to...

1. Send out an evangelistic box to Marines fighting in Afghanistan  
**(A special note to my international prayer warriors:**

**I am always surprised at the way evangelical churches outside the US neglect the support of their military and police. I meet few churches which take care packages with the gospel to military and police stations. Fewer still "adopt" units serving outside their country or in remote border stations and send them care packages and gospel tracts and Testaments. Let me encourage your church or ministry to lead the way. The greatest blessing any police station, military base, military recruiting station or military person serving overseas should have is to be near or be known by a Christian or a church.)**

*Romans 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing ; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.*

Good Morning Sir,

This is Sgt Kenneth Robinson of the United States Marine Corps your wife and you sent me a care package and I wanted to write you all and let you know how grateful I am for that. I am currently on the tail end of my deployment here in Afghanistan I have about 2 months or so to go and I am really excited to be coming home. You know SSgt Reid he is a really good Marine I like him a lot he was one of my SNCO's before I left on this deployment. I really consider it an honor to be looked upon so highly for defending my country and I will continue you to do it until I can't anymore. I have no specific requests for care packages. I wanted to thank you and your wife for the everyday bible I take it to church with me every Sunday now and try and read it whenever I have down time. Well thank you again and God Bless. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

**Cpl Robinson, Kenneth**  
**Comm 3/10 HQ Battery**  
**Main Unit 73365**  
**FFPO AE 09510 – 3365**

Or

Good Morning Rev. Mahon,

Let me start by saying thank you. That's pretty cool that you and Eleanor are going to Russia. My family's heritage on my dad's side is Russian. Well I don't hear enough thank you's back home, but it's nice to hear it from some good people. So your son is serving in Balad... well then I can thank your family for serving. This is my third deployment and first to Afghanistan. It's pretty rough out where I am at compared to Northern Afghan. As for your request on what to send me, I don't mind what you send, the coffee maker was excellent though. I am happy with whatever you send.

Thanks again and have a safe trip.

**Sgt. Antonoff, Robert**  
**Comm 3/10 HQ Battery**  
**Main Unit 73365**  
**FFPO AE 09510 – 3365**



2. Send out a ministry box to a young pastor and his church serving under persecution in Belarus.

**Sergie Zhibrik**  
**P.O.Box 85**  
**Minsk 220089**  
**BELARUS**



Sergie speaks fluent English so any Christian theology books, apologetic books or Bible study books will be greatly appreciated. His wife Julia speaks almost no English keep printed material keyed to him. He is a gifted worship leader so current Christian music sheet for piano are always greatly appreciated. (PS His wife Julia LOVES beef jerky). The best way to send him things is to pick up a Flat Rate International Mailing Box as the Post Office. Just fill it up and mail it for a single rate so you do not have to worry about weight. They live in a persecuted land so lots of encouraging notes will give them a real

lift. (This is a picture of Sergei translating for me as I preached on the Authority and Sufficiency of the Word of God in his father's church in Minsk.)

3. Send an Easter box to a young missionary family in Japan whose children will not have any traditional Easter goodies, presents and Sunday School materials for their children and other English speaking missionary children in their home group.



Here Eleanor and Margery VanZante take a walk in our last visit to Japan. Godly wives such as Margery make a great sacrifice to minister with their husbands far from family and friends. You can really bless Margery and the other "Sarah's" ministering on foreign fields by sending them special items from home and Bible study materials for their children.

**Brian and Margery Van Zante**  
**2786-13 Oya, Surugaku**  
**Shizuoka-shi**  
**Shizuoka-ken 422-8017**  
**JAPAN**

4. Or all three??? Three boxes in the mail and you will have touched lives for the Lord all over the world!! Below are boxes we mailed to missionaries, national pastors and military heroes before departing on this mission trip.





*Matthew 25:37-40 "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"*

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.")*

### **More Love To Thee**

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

*Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!*

Let sorrow do its work, come grief or pain;  
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,  
When they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

*Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;  
This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!*

(Elizabeth Payson Prentiss *Born:* October 26, 1818, Portland, Maine. *Died:* August 13, 1878, Dorset, Vermont. Prentiss wrote these words during a period of illness, but kept them to herself. When she showed them to her husband 13 years later, he encouraged her to publish them. Howard Doane saw the resulting pamphlet, and wrote music for the words.)