

Prayer Dispatch 12.21.17 / Our Ministry In The US Part Two



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In this Prayer Dispatch - Our Ministry of Hospitality

1 Timothy 3:2 "An overseer, then, must be ... hospitable,"

Romans 12:10-13 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love... practicing hospitality."

- I. Opening Our Home to Our Church
- II. Hosting Internationals
- III. Opening Our Home to Other Churches
- IV. Using Meals as A Ministry
- V. Prayer Requests: As you pray, please allow the accompanying passage from the Word of God to guide your prayers:

2 Corinthians 1:11 "you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many."

- A. It is nearing our departure for Russia. Please claim this passage, that the doors of ministry would remain open:

- 1 Corinthians 16:9 "for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."*
- Colossians 4:3-4 "praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ... 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak."*

- B. Ask God to bless as I study and prepare for my ministry in seminaries, Bible colleges, churches and to pastors and church leaders:

- Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."*
- 2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."*

- C. Hebrews 4:12-13 Pray that God would empower the preaching and teaching of His holy, eternal, inerrant written Word:

- Hebrews 4:12 "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."*

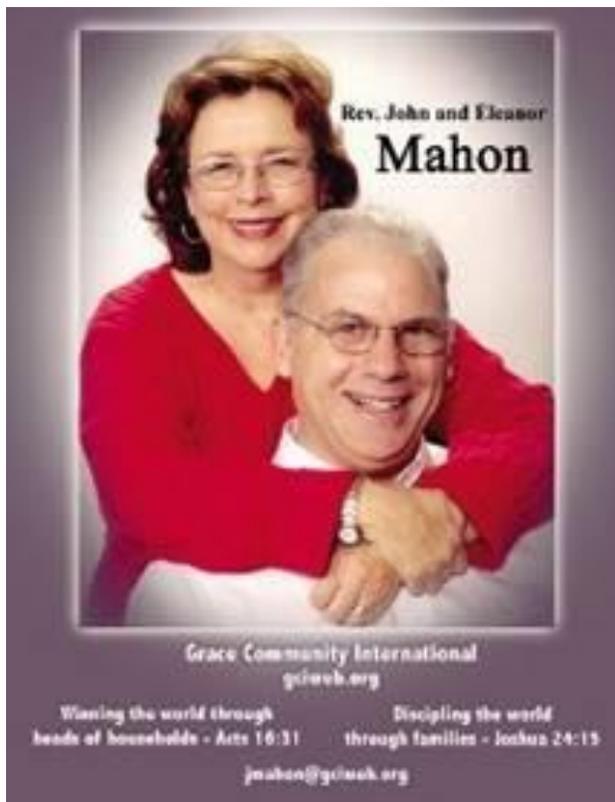
D. Ask God to bless the ministry materially, that we might, in turn, bless those to whom we minister:

Psalms 67:1-2

- God be gracious to us and bless us,*
- And cause His face to shine upon us — Selah.*
- 2 That Your way may be known on the earth,*
- Your salvation among all nations.*

Psalms 67:6-7

- 6 The earth has yielded its produce;*
- God, our God, blesses us.*
- 7 God blesses us,*
- That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.*



Dear Prayer Warriors,

1 Timothy 3:2 "An overseer, then, must be ... hospitable,"

Romans 12:10-13 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love... practicing hospitality."

We are asked many times about our ministry in the US between mission trips. This is our second dispatch on this subject. During this time, one of the great blessings is to use our home as a center of hospitality. The pictures included in this dispatch allow you to see a firsthand visual account of this ministry.

Pictures 1 a, b & c: Opening Our Home to Our Church



It is a great blessing to open our home to our church and, particularly, to our Sunday School class while we are stateside. We use it for hospitality within small groups and families, for fellowship parties and as a blessing to our home church. God has blessed us with a home where we can host all age groups and we praise God for this blessing.

Pictures 2a, b & c Hosting Internationals



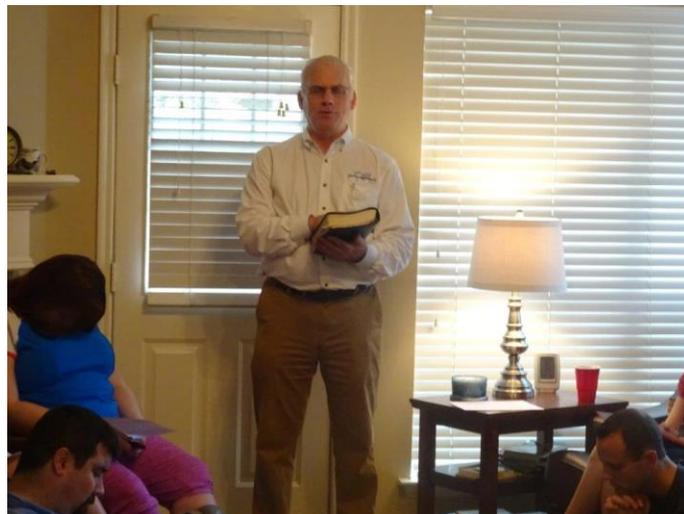
It is a joy that so many of those to whom we minister on foreign fields want to visit us as well.

2a This first picture is of Shinichi Iimura who received Christ as a university student. It was my privilege to meet with Shinichi in daily quiet times alone with God and in Bible study. I have visited him in his home and ministered in his church in Japan on three different occasions and he and his family have visited us as well. What a joy to have a friend for over 40 years who prays for and supports our ministry.

2b & c This fall, as well, we had visits from Russian pastors Oleg and Ravil, who came with his family. What a joy to host these men, minister with them and present them at

events to expand their prayer and support base. We praise God that He has blessed us with a home which we can use to welcome international pastors and missionaries as they travel through town.

Picture 3a,b Opening Our Home To Other Churches



Sometimes singles ministries from other churches need a place for their parties and fellowships. We are happy to open our home to them. In the picture we are hosting the Selah class of First Baptist Church Houston. Our daughter Megan and her fiancé Jason are both active in this ministry.

4a & b Using Meals As A Ministry



One great blessing we experience is to invite friends from our Sunday School Class home for lunch for times of Bible study and encouragement. Sometimes there are questions which time in class does not allow and we are happy to meet and go deeper in the Word. Other times it is simply a matter of encouraging and building up a friend from class. No matter the occasion I praise God that He has blessed us in such a way that we can actively minister the Word of God through our home and hospitality.

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 this dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook which 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.")

Link to music/tune for this hymn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMomMV_zLR0

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

*Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?*

Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.*

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

*Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,*

*Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.*

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Joachim Neander *Born:* 1650, Bremen, Germany. *Died:* May 31, 1680, Bremen, Germany, of tuberculosis. Grandson of a musician and son of a teacher, Neander studied theology at Bremen University, 1666-1670. His family name was Neumann ("new man"), but, as was popular at the time, his grandfather (also a preacher, and also named Joachim!), changed it to a foreign equivalent, in this case Greek. In 1671, Neander moved his studies to Heidelberg (locale of *The Student Prince* musical). In 1673, he moved to Frankfurt, where he met Pietistic scholars Philipp Jakob Spener (1635-1705) and [Johann Schütz](#) (1640-1690). From 1674-1679, Neander was principal of the Reformed *Lateinschule* (grammar school) in Düsseldorf. During these years, he used to wander the secluded Düssel River valley, which was, until the 19th Century, a deep ravine between rock faces and forests, with numerous caves, grottos and waterfalls. Probably, Neander wrote and sang many of his poems there, but also held gatherings and services. In the early 19th Century, a large cave was named *Neanderhöhle* after him. In the mid-19th Century, the cement industry started to quarry the limestone, and the narrow ravine became a wide valley, which was now named the Neander Valley (in German, *Neanderthal*). The "Neanderthal Man" was found there in the summer of 1856, giving Joachim the distinction of being the only hymnist with a fossil hominid named after him! In 1679, Neander moved to Bremen and worked as assistant preacher at St. Martini church. The next year he became seriously ill and died, presumably of tuberculosis.