

Prayer Dispatch #01 / Our First Ministry Report From Siberia



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In this Prayer Dispatch...

- I. Broadening Our Communication Links With You, Our Prayer Warriors
- II. Report On Our Ministry In Tyumen
- III. 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. That God would empower the Word, as well as using me as His vessel, in the teaching and preaching of the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God.

Hebrews 4:11-13 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.

- B. That the ministry would manifest the resurrection power of Christ.
Philippians 3:9-10 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...

- C. That God would teach us His ways that we might do His will.

Psalms 25:4-5

Make me know Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.

*Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.*

D. That the gospel of salvation would go out with power.

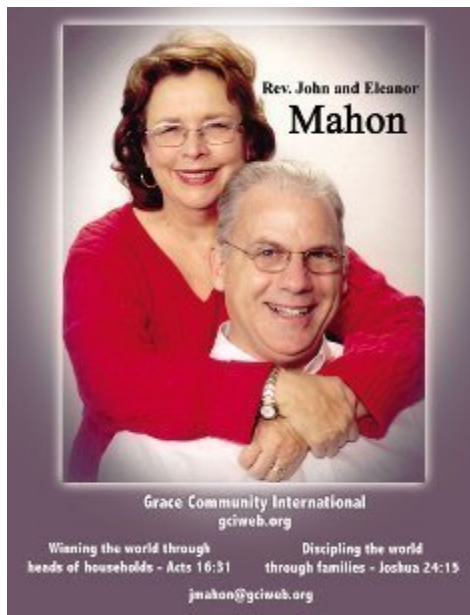
Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

E. That satan would be prevented from thwarting the ministry of the Word.

James 4:6-7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

F. That God would bless the ministry materially, that we might, in turn, bless those to whom we minister.

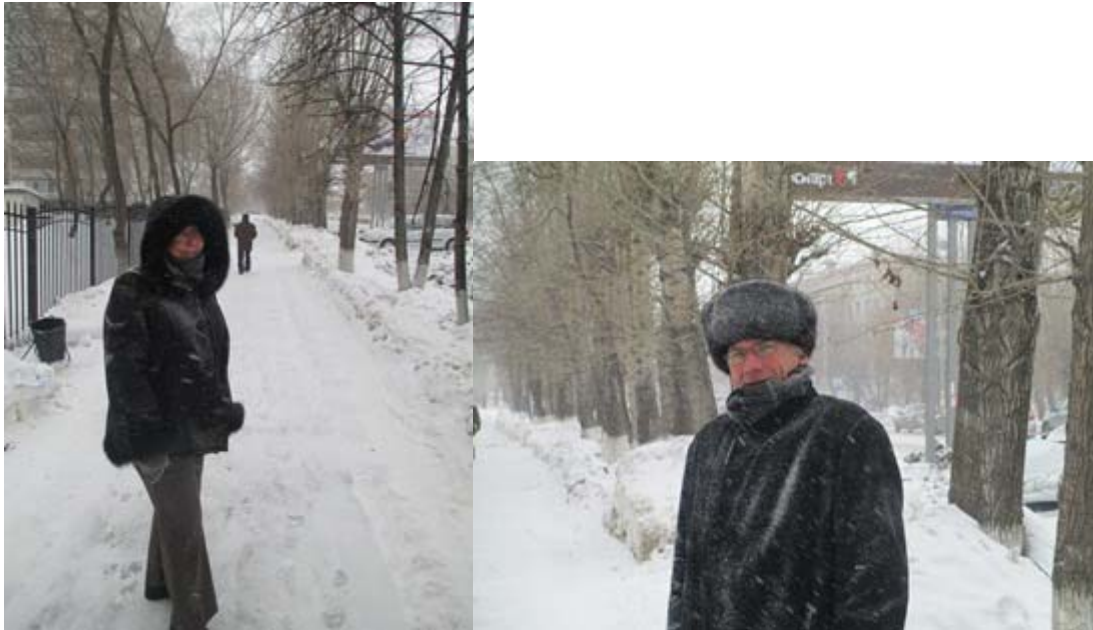
Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.



Dear Prayer Warriors,

I. Broadening Our Communication Links With You, Our Prayer Warriors

We realize that you have not heard from us through our dispatches for a while. The reason for this is that we send out over 500 emails to individuals in over 30 countries who have requested to receive them, so as to pray for our ministry. The Cyberspace powers that be cannot believe that we are not "spamming" and so regularly shut us down until we prove that we are "legit." This is especially true concerning emails sent from Russia, as it is one of the spamming centers of the world. Because of this, we have broadened our communication network to include multiple avenues for you to keep abreast of God's work and be involved in our ministry through prayer.



Yep, this is Russia. It is -15 and snowing hard as El and I take our one-mile daily walk. It is our sincere wish to include you in every aspect of our ministry while in Russia...

We will continue to send out prayer dispatches.

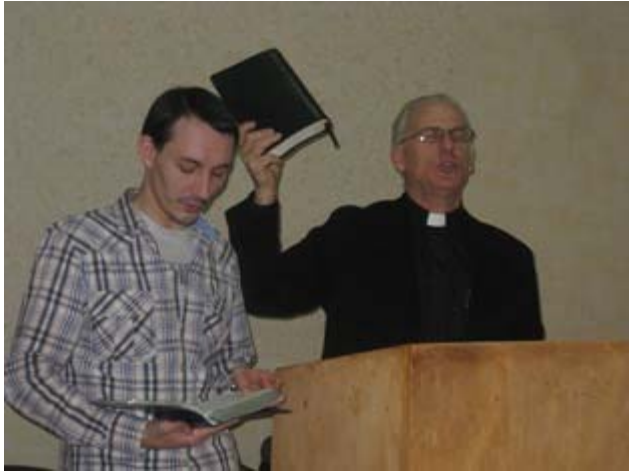
We also have both a personal and ministry Facebook page. We realize that not all enjoy Facebook but, for those who do, it is a much faster and less cumbersome means of communication than email. If you would like to keep abreast of our ministry through the Facebook medium then "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gciweb. The nice thing about Facebook is that it often takes about an hour to send out our dispatches by email and sometimes the lines do not stay open that long, whereas it takes just a few minutes to post on Facebook.

Then there is a the bi-weekly blog which we post at http://www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=gci.

This website also hosts our messages. By visiting this site, you can read the weekly devotional blog that reflects what God is doing in our lives "real time." You can read the weekly ministry report to aid you in your prayers and you can listen to the messages that are being given on the mission field that very week. Even the Russian messages come with English translation, so you may find that the pace is easier to absorb. I know that is what the Russians say. I often ask, when using a translator in Russia, Africa or Asia, if it is distracting. The response is almost uniformly positive, that it gives a pause to absorb and take notes. You may find this true as well.

Last but not least, there are archived Prayer Dispatches on our website. Simply follow this link to <http://gciweb.org/learn-about-gci/whats-happening/>. Here you can find dispatches from all over the world.

II. Report On Our Ministry In Tyumen



Our commitment to the local church is unwavering. Each Sunday I have been preaching a series on the Holy Spirit to combat the mysticism of so-called “apostles,” who have come from Germany preaching that the Church is passing away and being replaced by Pentecostalism.



The men’s Bible study is a key time for spiritual growth in the church. These men pay a high price to attend and I am humbled by their commitment.



Eleanor, too, has a good group for the ladies' Bible study. They have a 100% record in completing their studies and knowing their memory verses.



Pastor Ravi and I meet on Tuesday and spend almost the entire day in Bible study. He has questions concerning the ministry and his personal study ready for me each week.



Each week we make at least one evangelistic house call. The objective is twofold: first, to share the gospel and, second, to train others in how to do this once we are gone.



Each weekend there is a four to five hour seminar. The Family Discipleship Seminar, The Marriage Covenant Seminar and the Holy Spirit Seminar have all been featured.



Personal Evangelism: These two ladies are being recognized for sharing the Four Spiritual Laws with a friend this past week.



Workbook Completion: Pavel is recognized for finishing (with his wife) the 60 page daily devotional workbook and knowing his verses. Each week several couples receive their Bible for finishing this very rigorous course.



II Timothy 2:2 Pastor Ravi, as usual, sets the pace. Here he shares with the church how he and his wife Yulia finished the 120-page Family Discipleship Workbook, which has been translated into Russian.

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. - Tyumen, Russia

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: <http://nethymnal.org/html/s/h/shop.htm>

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
that calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Fathers throne
make all my wants and wishes known

In seasons of distress and grief
my soul hast often found relief
And oft escaped the tempters snare
by thy return sweet hour of prayer

Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless

And since He bids me seek His face,
believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

*(Words: [William Walford](#), 1845; appeared in *The New York Observer*, September 13, 1845, accompanied by the following, written by Thomas Salmon: During my residence at Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, I became acquainted with W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision and scarcely ever misplacing a word in his recitation of the Psalm, every part of the New Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of "knowing the whole Bible by heart." He actually sat in the chimney corner, employing his mind in composing a sermon or two for Sabbath delivery, and his hands in cutting, shaping and polishing bones for shoe horns and other little useful implements. At intervals he attempted poetry. On one occasion, paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" asked he, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some light lines of fear lest he subject himself to criticism. I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil, as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the *Observer*, if you should think them worthy of preservation.*

