

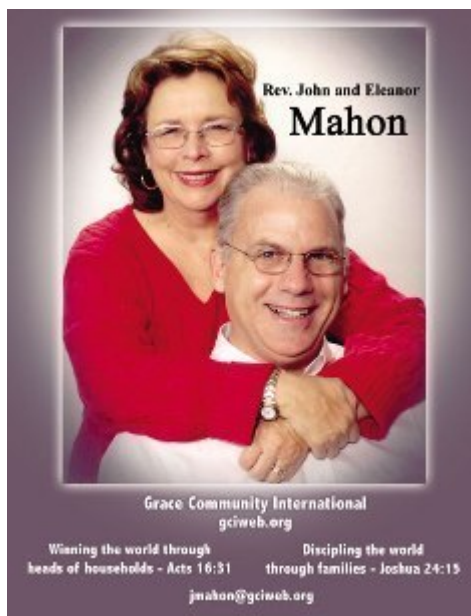
Prayer Dispatch 09.28.12/ First Report From Russia - St. Petersburg



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In this Prayer Dispatch...

A Word about Attachments (see also IV.) - The two workbooks attached are what the Russians complete in order to receive a study Bible. I am sending them along to give you an idea of the devotion they have for the Word and the yearning they have to receive a good quality study Bible. Your gifts make these Bibles possible.

- I. **By God's grace and your faith, prayers & gifts we are ministering in Russia**
- II. **Povlosk Baptist Church**
- III. **Reformed Church of St. Petersburg, Russia**

IV. On To Tyumen

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. **Fruit that remains** – Ask God to continue to raise up the Sasha Firsanovs, the Pastor Volkovs and the Pastor Ravils who will reach Russia for Christ. Ask God to continue to give fruit that remains.

John 15:16-17 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

B. **Empowerment of the Word** – Call upon the Lord to bless the teaching and preaching of His holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. It is upon this ministry that we stand or fall.

Hebrews 4:12-13 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.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth

C. **Centrality of Christ** – Pray for us that we would keep Christ and Him crucified ever before our listeners. Ask for adult (heads of households) converts in all the churches in which we minister in Russia.

John 12:31-33 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

Acts 16:31 they replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household."

D. **Strength and Stamina** – Petition the Lord of the harvest to give us the strength and the stamina to work hard at preaching, teaching, sowing and reaping. That the Lord will uphold us, that we might be found to be hardworking laborers upon His return.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

E. **Resources to supply ministers with Bibles and Bible study aids** – Fifteen leaders in St. Petersburg are working for study Bibles. More will do so in Tyumen. Ask God to raise up men and women who wish to co-labor with us by investing in the spiritual lives of pastors, leaders and churches in Russia through their gifts and offerings.

Phil 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

3 John 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

Dear Prayer Warriors,

By God's grace and your faith, prayers & gifts we are ministering in Russia...

We are experiencing firsthand the truths taught by God the Holy Spirit concerning intercessory prayer. How we praise God for your faithfulness in the ministry of prayer, making possible both this ministry and you a co-laborer with us in Russia.

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 "you also joining in helping us through your prayers , that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many." and Romans 15:30 "Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me..."

Povlosk Baptist Church



1_Povlosk Baptist Church

"O Lord, bless now your holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word..." We began our ministry in St. Petersburg at Povlosk Baptist Church in the city of Povlosk, founded around the palace of the son of Catherine the Great, with this, my constant prayer. It was a vibrant church with a very teachable and responsive congregation.



2_ God's Word transcends both time and culture.

Our teaching and our message is, first and foremost, founded upon the Word of God. The ministry of God's Word will find an audience among every people, in every culture, for all time. It never becomes dated and it never need be made relevant. It is, by the empowerment of God the Holy Spirit, because it is the very words of God the Holy Spirit, always relevant and always powerful.

"When can you return?"

It is always an encouragement to be asked this question. Once again, I was told that this church had been given seminars on the family before. They were heavy with statistics, with personality tests, with stories and modern psychology. The pastor told me it was the first time that they had hosted a seminar that was centered upon the Word of God and relied solely upon the Word of God. My experience is that pop culture comes and goes but there is always a yearning for the clearly taught Word of God.

Reformed Church of St. Petersburg, Russia



3_ Sunday morning services - Hebrews 12

I was asked to give a weeklong series of meetings at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, Russia from our Family Discipleship Seminar. I laid the groundwork for this by preaching from Hebrews chapter twelve on Sunday morning. I have known, ministered to and with Sasha Firsanov, my translator, since the time he was a university student. He is now an elder with this church.



4_Pastor Oleg Volkov - the blessing of a former student

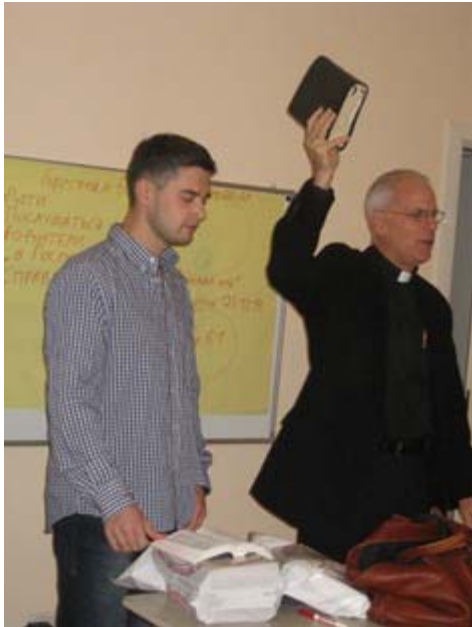
Pastor Volkov prays for me. You have prayed for Oleg Volkov since he was a seminary student. Your gifts provided him with his first study Bible. Your prayers have sustained him over the years. Now he is the pastor of a vibrant and growing church. What a privilege to be prayed for by this godly pastor.



5_Everywhere I go...

Everywhere I go, I am told that young professionals will not get up early in the morning to study God's Word. Everywhere I go, I find young professionals willing to get up early in the morning to study God's Word. Pastor Volkov invited me to teach

the men's Tuesday morning Bible study. I taught from Romans 1:16 on personal evangelism.



6_Evening meetings -Combined FDS -- Baptists joined the Presbyterians in this seminar

Here Baptist pastor Boris translates for me in the evening meetings. These went from 6 to 9 p.m. every evening and were heavily attended. I was truly humbled by the desire these young families have to know exactly what God's Word says about marriage and family.



7_A godly couple

Our ministry in Russia is made possible by the faith and vision of Blake and Cathy Purcell. They are one of those rare and unique missionary couples who have literally spent their ministry career devoted to the country and people to whom they have been

called to minister. I have known Blake since the 70's when he was a student leader in our Navigator ministry at Texas A & M University (notice the maroon sweater). Blake both planted the church, founded the seminary and has sent graduates out to found or pastor ten churches. This is no small accomplishment in a country like Russia. How I praise God for the privilege of ministering with Blake.

On To Tyumen



8_On to Tyumen

Pastor Ravil - "Make them work for their Bibles"

It was Pastor Ravil's decision that, to receive Bibles or reference books, his congregation had to complete the Family Discipleship Seminar and the How To Pray Quiet Time Workbook. Then, after that, to gain another Bible or book, they had to memorize a chapter of the Bible - either Romans chapter five or chapter eight. This is also the standard now in St. Petersburg and 15 church leaders have taken workbooks to complete for study Bibles or reference works in Russian. I am attaching the two workbooks to give you an idea of the work they are putting in to receive a Bible. My son Sam told me to pass on to Pastor Ravil, "Don't feel bad about not having many Bibles. If Americans had to do a ninety page workbook or memorize a chapter of Romans to receive a Bible, we would not have many Bibles in the U.S. either!"

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 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.")

Link to music/tune for this hymn: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7P2p-npI xvA&feature=related>

All That Thrills My Soul

Who can cheer the heart like Jesus
By His presence all divine
True and tender, pure and precious
O, how blest to call Him mine

*Love of Christ so freely given
Grace of God beyond degree
Mercy higher than the heavens
Deeper than the deepest sea*

What a wonderful redemption
Never can a mortal know
Ho my sin, though red like crimson
Can be whiter than the snow

*Every need His hand supplying
Every good in Him I see
On His strength divine relying
He is all in all to me*

By the crystal flowing river
With the ransomed I will sing
And forever and forever
Praise and glorify the King

Chorus

**All that thrills my soul is Jesus
He is more than life to me
And the fairest of ten thousand
In my blessed Lord I see**

Author: Thoro Harris 1874- 1955 After attending college in Battle Creek, Michigan, Harris produced his first hymnal in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1902. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois at the invitation of [Peter Bilhorn](#), and in 1932 to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He composed and compiled a number of works. He was well known locally as he walked around with a canvas bag full of Christian handbooks and Bibles for sale as inspired by reading of the ministry of Spurgeon.