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1 Using the Word of God to oppose error and build up the church



2 Establishing lay leaders in the Word



3 Preparing young men and women for the ministry at the Christian University of St. Petersburg



4 Eleanor teaching young wives and mothers Scriptural principles of marriage



5_Teaching parenting to pastors and lay leaders.jpg



In this Prayer Dispatch...

- I. Ten Days In St. Petersburg, Russia
- II. God Has Greatly Blessed Your Ministry of Co-laborship
- III. Ministry Report
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- 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. Two passages you can claim for this ministry as it pertains to "conserving the fruit" are:

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

Mark 4:20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

- B. 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.

- C. 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...

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

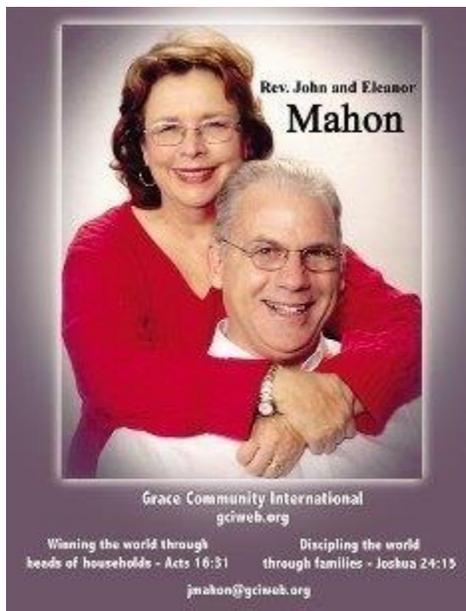
Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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.



01.30.2017

Ten Days in St. Petersburg, Russia ...

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As I type this it is snowing hard and Eleanor is packing us up once again (didn't we just do this?) After a very fruitful ten days in St. Petersburg, Russia, we board Aeroflot for Tyumen, deep in the heart of Siberia. We depart about midnight and arrive about 5 a.m.. (That will be 3pm and 8pm respectively Central Standard Time in the US, if you would like to pray.)

God has greatly blessed your ministry here with us as co-laborers and this blog will give you a report of all that God did through you. The Apostle (and great missionary) Paul used men on his team to give reports such as this. As revealed to us by God the Holy Spirit in **Ephesians 6:21-22** ***“But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.”*** In the 21st century, God has provided the internet for the same purposes and we rejoice with you in bringing this report.

Your ministry of prayer greatly strengthened us for this ministry and empowered our teaching. At 65, I can feel the effects of jet lag and the challenges of the Russian winter more than at 45 but your prayers make up the difference as always. It is the same with a wonderfully challenging preaching and teaching

schedule but, again, your prayers empower us and drive us ever forward. This is as it should be, as taught by God the Holy Spirit in **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.”* Notice a few key words. God the Holy Spirit teaches that through your prayers:

1. You are joining us
2. You are helping us
3. You are causing the saints on the mission field to give thanks to God
4. You are bestowing special favor on our ministry. Now that is an exciting ministry and we praise God for your faithful part in it.

Your ministry of generosity has also blessed us and many others. As God the Holy Spirit teaches in **3 John 8** *“Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.”* Your gifts supply Bibles, Bible study aids, Bible reference works, conference fees for pastors who would otherwise not be able to attend and more. We are humbled by both your generosity and by the knowledge that it is only by your faith that this ministry is possible.

In terms of our report, in the last ten days:

We spoke 16 times to a total of over 250 individuals, including students preparing for the ministry, pastors and their wives, deacons, elders and church leaders, as well as key members of the churches in which we ministered.

In addition to the teaching on the Word, people were supplied with over 700 pages of printed devotional and Bible study aids. Upon our return, those who have shown daily consistency in the completion of the *Lord Teach Me to Pray Workbook* (which has been translated into Russian) or memorized Romans chapter eight will receive a Bible. Those who continue faithfully in their daily quiet time for three more months and commit to a lifestyle of meeting with the Lord in the morning will receive doctrine and prayer books from the Christian bookstore here in St. Petersburg, Russia. Those who attended a meeting received a CD with all of the Bible study aids, devotional aids, Scripture memory aids and messages from our website in Russian. This is extremely helpful, as cost and time on internet makes downloads and live streaming prohibitive.

Both Sundays, we hosted after church luncheons at the local Teremok Restaurant, which is Russian “fast food”-- featuring blinhis (crepes), borscht (beet soup), Pelmenhi (like tortellini) and other favorites, where we were available to sit and talk individually and in small groups with couples concerning questions on marriage and child raising.

During unscheduled time, we spent many hours with Pastor Volkov and his wife, both in their home and on campus, ministering to their hearts, encouraging them and answering questions on marriage and family as they apply specifically to the pastor, his wife and family.

A breakdown of scheduled ministry events is as follows...

Sunday -Reformed Church St. Petersburg – “Called To Be A Disciple of Christ”

Monday -Couples dinner fellowship on marriage

Tuesday -St. Petersburg Christian University– church training seminar on prayer

Wednesday -with Pastor Volkov and his wife Natasha

Thursday -Noon chapel service St. Petersburg Christian University – “Biblical Value of Knowledge” (Back to school opening chapel service) (30 in attendance)

Thursday afternoon and evening -St. Petersburg Christian University – “Scriptural Prayer” Seminar

Friday -Shopping at Christian bookstore and preparation day for weekend ministry

Saturday -Multi-church pastor/leadership Marriage Covenant Seminar (Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian) (20 in attendance)

Sunday -Reformed Church St. Petersburg – John teaches combined men’s class – “How To Organize A Prayer Notebook” and Eleanor teaches combined ladies class – “How To Pray for Yourself as a Wife”

In addition, after each Sunday service we had the after-church fellowships.

Monday -pack and depart for Tyumen in central Siberia, where a full month of ministry awaits us.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon: Director Grace Community International – heading east into Siberia as we preach Jesus and teach His holy, eternal, inerrant written Word.

Our ministry in St. Petersburg centered on prayer. In light of this 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.*

