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Prayer Dispatch 02.02.17 / Safe Arrival In Tyumen

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1_View from our 10th floor apt. temp. -16 today



2_First 2 of 6 boxes of Bibles and books arrive



3_El preps for ladies Bible Study



4_Great Fellowship



5_Yulia – pastor's wife receives leather study Bible



6_Eleanor teaching the Word to the ladies ministry



In this Prayer Dispatch...

- I. Safe Arrival In Tyumen
- II. Wonderful Reunion With Pastor Ravil and Family
- III. Hitting The Ground Running
- IV. Prayer Requests: As you pray, please allow the accompanying passages from the Word of God to guide your prayers:

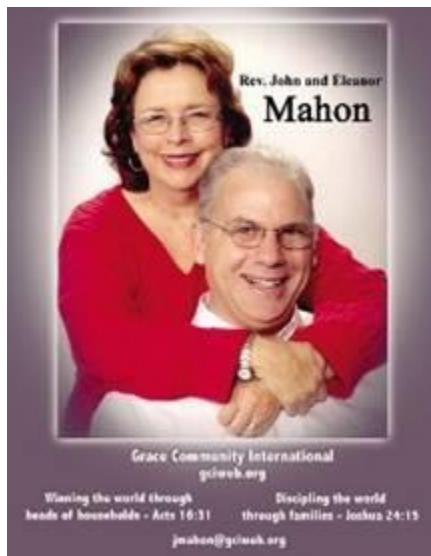
2 Corinthians 1:11 "you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many."

A. Mark 4:14-20

- 14 "The sower sows the word.
- 15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.
- 16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.
- 18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- 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. 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.*
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 - That God would bless the ministry materially so that we might, in turn, bless those to whom we minister.
 - *6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*
 - *7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
 - *8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*



Dear Prayer Warriors,

By your prayers and your sacrificial generosity we are ministering here in Siberia. Just as Paul looked to the church in Ephesus to protect and empower his ministry, so we look to you, our prayer warriors, for the same empowering prayers in our ministry here in Russia. God the Holy Spirit records so well Paul's heart and the heart of God in this famous missionary prayer passage - *Ephesians 6:19-20*

"and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel ... that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Safe Arrival In Tyumen

Because of your prayers we arrived safely in Tyumen. It was one of the smoothest transitions from St Petersburg to Tyumen that we have ever made. In fact, this has been one of the best trips to Russia that we can remember in terms of travel. We found the government officials at passport control and customs professional, yet very courteous. When we had trouble with the forms, they were very patient and helpful. At one point, Eleanor laid her iPad aside and the official that found it went to great pains to return it to her safely. On another occasion, as I got some documents from my pocket my comb fell out and a security guard picked it up and

returned it to me. On the flight, the Aeroflot personnel went out of their way to welcome us as Americans, checked to see if we were comfortable and shared that they hoped we would fly with them again. As we returned by taxi from one of our meetings, the cab was in a fender bender. The police were polite and professional, allowing us to book another cab while they sorted things out. These are just a few of the illustrations of the grace extended to us by your prayers.

Wonderful Reunion With Pastor Ravil and Family

We had a delightful reunion with Pastor Ravil and his family. Pastor Ravil, his wife Yulia, their children and Karil (a deacon in their church) were all there to meet us. They had to get up at 2 a.m. to do this and we were greatly touched by their love and sacrifice. The small apartment they arranged for us is just perfect. We are on the tenth floor with a great view. There is a nice kitchen, a living room for Bible study and fellowships and a bedroom for us. The bathroom has all the modern conveniences, so we could not be happier.

After letting us sleep in, Pastor Ravil and family came over the afternoon of our arrival for planning. We had "Second Christmas" as well. As you remember, on our packing day I came home from a short errand and found Eleanor taking her things out of the suitcase so we could put more in for Pastor Ravil and his family. I quickly added a fifth suitcase to our luggage which she, then, filled with their gifts (and got to put her clothes back in the other suitcase). Medicines, clothing, Legos for the boys, Bibles and more were safely delivered. In addition, the first two of six boxes of Bibles and Bible study aids which we ordered for the church arrived. This new system bypasses the excess baggage fees, as shipping book boxes is much cheaper than putting them on the plane with us. The Russian mail system has radically changed during President Putin's tenure and is now very reliable, making this a desirable option.

Pastor Ravil reserves these volumes for those who have completed our three-month daily devotional workbook (they must show him their workbook at church each week to prove they are doing it daily) or who have memorized and can quote before the church Romans chapter eight. Many have done this and have gone on to complete other daily devotional worksheets from the Russian material on our website, or have memorized other chapters. Your sacrifice in providing these volumes is not taken lightly by us nor by the receiving pastors. How many in your congregation would have a leather study Bible, if to receive it they had to quote a chapter from the Bible during the Sunday morning service or had to show weekly that they were meeting each morning with the Lord in prayer and meditation upon His Word? I know it has been a real example and challenge to me.

Hitting The Ground Running

Pastor Ravil has put together a great five week schedule for us...

Tuesdays is "100 Questions Day." The first time I came to Tyumen, as I was greeted at baggage claim by Pastor Ravil, the first thing he said was "I have 100 questions" and he did, all written out. That has become a tradition and he collects these between visits and we spend pretty much all day Tuesday, sitting at the breakfast table--Bibles open--working our way through these, stopping only for lunch.

Wednesday is Bible study night for Eleanor and the sisters in the church.

Thursday is Bible study night for me and the brothers in the church.

(We host these at our apartment and Eleanor usually supplies dinner.)

Friday through Saturday of each week Pastor Ravil has a different Seminar planned --prayer, marriage, child raising.

Sunday is worship and I will be preaching the service.

During the mornings, Eleanor and I spend time in the Word and prayer as we prepare for the day's ministry. In the afternoon, Pastor Ravil and I will make ministry calls on key men in the church or those he is trying to recruit at their workplace or in their homes.

Jesus Christ said it best - *John 9:4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day ; night is coming when no one can work."* We are all too aware of our frailty and desire to work hard as long as the Lord grants grace. We tell our hosts that we want to work on the "sucked orange principle". When we get on the plane to come home, we want to look like a sucked orange. We come full and we want to leave empty. By your faith, prayers and generosity we will be a blessing to all we serve here in Russia.

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=ZqFsFY0M8WI>

I'd Rather Have Jesus

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame;
I'd rather be true to His holy name

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs;
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead

I'd Rather Have Jesus – The History

I'd Rather Have Jesus is a song written by Rhea F. Miller with the tune written by George Beverly Shea. This poem, written in 1922, was left on a piano in the Shea home by Bev Shea who wanted her son to find it and change the course of his life. The words, *I'd rather have Jesus*, moved George so much and spoke to him about his own aims and ambitions in life. He sat down at the piano and began singing them with a tune that seemed to fit the words. Shea's mom heard him singing it and asked him to sing it at church the next day. George's life direction did change. He was offered a popular music career with NBC, but chose instead to become associated with evangelist Billy Graham and sang this hymn around the world.