



A Jewel in Russia

The book of Proverbs asks us, "*An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain*" (Proverbs 31:10-11). While many of her peers are settling in to hearth and home as they begin to enjoy the hard-earned fruits of a life devoted to service to Christ, Eleanor continues to lovingly devote herself to the ministry of GCI. On countless occasions, men have approached me saying, "Pastor John, I want to thank you for Eleanor's ministry to my wife. It is because of her that our marriage was saved, and we have such a wonderful family." I praise God for how Eleanor continues to faithfully minister by my side - whether in the heat of an African summer or the cold of a Siberian fall.

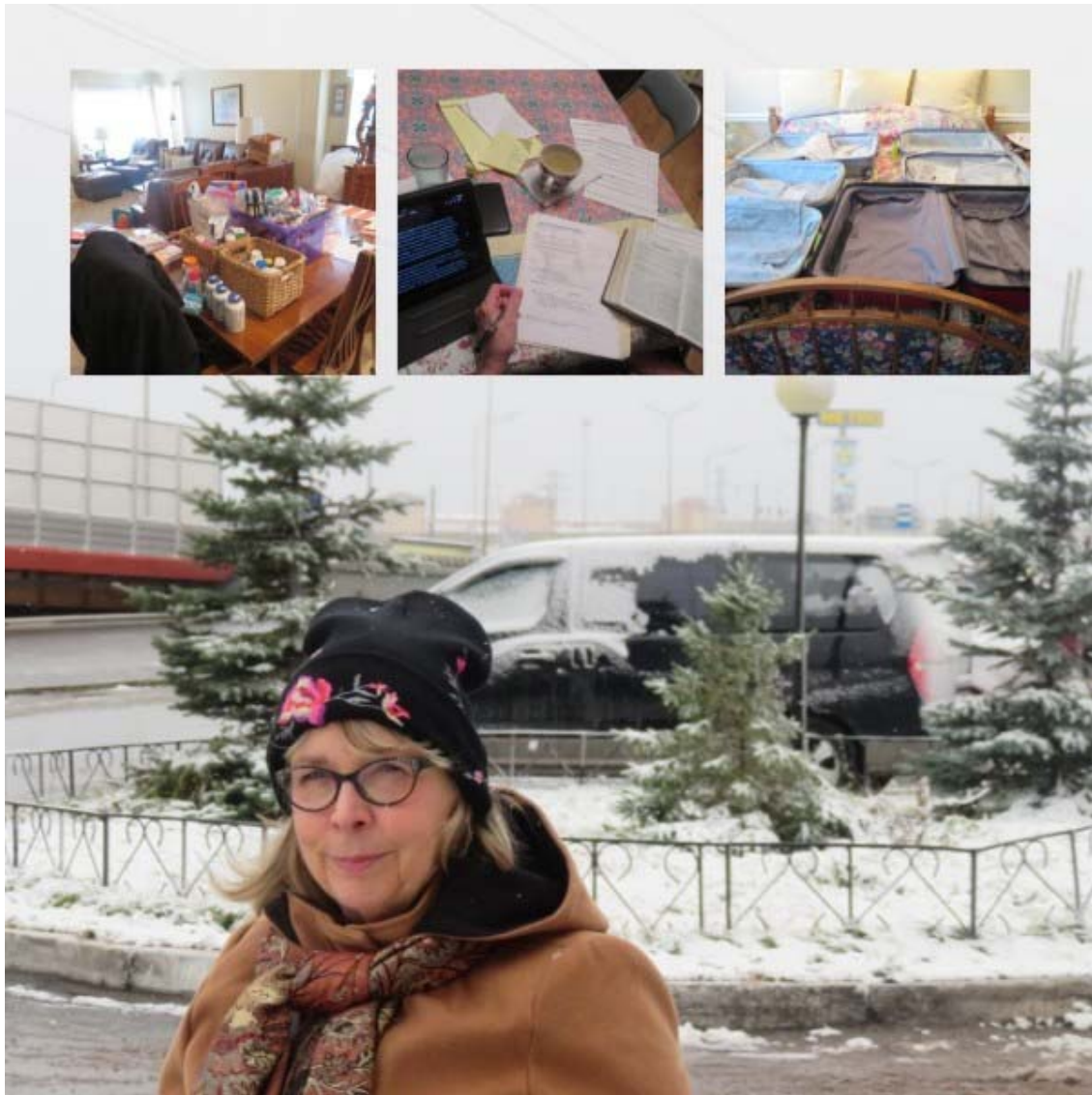


She does him good and not evil...

My trust in Eleanor is absolute. Like expecting the sun to rise in the morning, I start each day with the confidence of her blessing upon my life knowing that "*she does [me] good and not evil all the days of [my] life*" (Proverbs 31:12). For our mission trips, she handles all of the packing and planning. Do I need something to wear? Just ask El. Am I in need of medications? Just ask El. Something for a message or project? Just ask El.

However, equally as important is her commitment to maintaining her walk with the Lord on whatever type of soil her feet trod. Every morning El can be found at

a table, a cup of tea in hand, Bible open, meditating, praying and going deep in the Word of God. Additionally, she spends many evenings in Bible study preparation and readying herself to meet with women over the Word of God. In 27 countries of the world, El has found a spot in which she spends time with God every day. What a joy to count as a partner in life and ministry this woman whose life is centered on God's Word!



Pray for Eleanor's various ministries this week



Teaching God's Word to Women

"She opens her mouth in wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." (Proverbs 31:26)

Hospitality in the home

"She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness." (Proverbs 31:27)



Discipling other women in the Church

"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:9)



I will make him a helper suitable for him...

The Youth Minister who led me to the Lord, Wyman Mitchel ("Mitch"), also did our pre-marital counseling. Long before I meet El, Mitch shared with me that a pastor's ministry will either double or half on the basis of who he marries, there is not a middle ground. After our first session, Mitch took me aside and said, "John, your ministry is about to double." How I praise God for Eleanor; I cannot imagine life without her, and I cannot imagine how I could minister or even function without her presence. She is truly a blessing from God!

One of Eleanor's ministries in our home is to use every season or holiday to share Christ. Follow this [link](#) for some great ideas for family and personal spiritual projects leading up to Thanksgiving.

Finally, thank you for your generosity towards the Church in Russia! As we round the corner on our last week-and-a-half in Russia, it is not too late to contribute towards Bibles and the ministry of GCI in this country. Simply click on the Donate button [here](#) to give online today!

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,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1

A Closing Hymn

Please allow me to close with the words of one of Eleanor's favorite hymns, "Day by Day." Like Eleanor, the author of this hymn allowed God to use childhood loss for His glory in a life spent in devotion to Him. (Click [here](#) to hear the music for the hymn.)

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best -
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

*Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.*

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation

Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
Ever to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.