

Prayer Dispatch 11.18.14 / The Three Fold Cord of Missions



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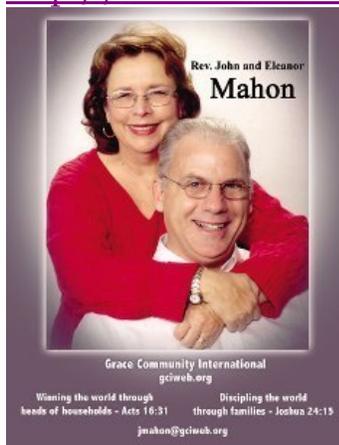
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Message: The Three Fold Cord of Missions

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In this Prayer Dispatch...

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Introduction: The Three Fold Cord

- I. Those Who Pray
- II. Those Who Give
- III. Those Who Go
- IV. Application
- V. Prayer Requests: As you pray over the request, please claim the truths found in the passage as it pertains to our ministry...

A. That God would continue to raise up prayer warriors

Romans 15:30

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,

1 Timothy 2:1-4

1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

B. That those who pray would be faithful

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

4 in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

C. That God would continue to raise up support team members

3 John 1:7-8

7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

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

D. That those who give would be faithful

2 Corinthians 8:10-14

10 And I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it.

11 But now finish doing it also; that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have.

13 For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality--

14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be equality;

2 Corinthians 9:5-8

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by covetousness.

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

7 Let each one 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, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

E. That God would continue to raise up teams of men to go with us to teach and preach the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God

Isaiah 6:7-8

7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Acts 16:9-10

9 ...a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 And... immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

F. That we would be found to be faithful as we labor in the harvest fields of the world

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves;

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As the year end closes we will be contacting those who are personally involved with GCI by being one or more of the "Cords" to prayerfully consider an increased involvement in their

financial support. Please join all those who receive this Prayer Dispatch in lifting these needs to the Lord.

We live in a unique age when mature Christian men in churches throughout America can serve teaching and preaching the Word of God in the harvest fields of the world. A grown man can get on an airplane today, land within a matter of hours (or at the most a day) in virtually any country of the world and that very same day be ministering the gospel and teaching the Bible.

Yet not all are called to go as a lifestyle. It is true that God still calls men and women to a career of laboring in the harvest fields of the World. What though of those who are not called to be "career missionaries", are they left behind in this great work of God. No, no and a thousand times no. God in His goodness has so ordered missions that no one person can "do it all". God has made provision for all to be involved. The question then is not "Should I be involved in missions?" but rather, "How is God calling me to be involved in missions?" Truly, in the New Covenant, "Every man is a missionary" it simply depends upon how, not if.

A good friend of mine and former missionary to Africa, Mark Lewis often quotes William Carey, the father of modern missions, "If you will hold the rope, I will go down to the pit of Hell and bring them out." This quote is taken from the minutes of his mission board, just days before he departed to await the sailing of the ship that would take him to India. (William Carey by S. Pearce Carey Pg 108)

Ecclesiastes 4:12 states eloquently, "*And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.*" This rope which the church holds during this age of modern missions is made up of Three Strands - **Those who Pray; Those who Give; Those who Go.**

I. Those who pray are helping in the ministry as if they were actually there.



(From left to right – Many small group ministries like the one pictured left led by board member Dan Clark pray faithful for our mission trips. Also churches pray. Pastor Ravil and Pastor Oleg lead their churches in prayer for our ministry every Sunday morning.)

On the ministry trip to Uganda mentioned above I had an allergic reaction to my malaria medication which found me lying in the dirt on the side of a rural road in Uganda with my heart stopping and starting. When I returned home Eleanor asked me if anything unusual had happened. It seems Celia Williams, wife of William Williams had woken up at 4 a.m. with a burden to pray for me. She had gotten William out of bed and they had prayed. Eleanor had had the same experience and related this to Celia who had called that very morning to see if anything had happened. If you work the time zones, while I was lying in the dust in rural Uganda, my heart stopping and starting, God was waking my wife and my prayer warriors to sustain me. I praise God for Eleanor, Celia and those who sustain this ministry through their prayers.

II Corinthians 1:11 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.

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,

II. Those Who Give



(Pictured are Chichewa Bibles supplied by your gifts. For some it was the first Bible they have owned in their native tongue. Next, a leather study Bible, again, for many of these pastors the first leather study Bible they have ever owned. Lastly, my son – Sam Mahon and board member Dan McCollum load up Bibles for Africa. These are hand delivered to worthy pastors and ministers who attend our conferences and in many cases exceed their monthly salary.)

I can remember my first student conference. A missionary, Tom Eynon, was being sent to Taiwan and then on to Hong Kong. An appeal was made for support. I had worked hard all summer, my college was paid for with a little left over. I knew if I made a pledge I would have to take a job at school, something I had worked hard at to avoid. However the chance to be involved in the next mission wave to China could not be passed up. I remember how important it was for me in my Christians life to write out that check every month and send it in for Tom and his ministry in Taiwan. Now I was

not just praying for missionaries, I was actively participating in their material needs. The letter Tom sent telling how my small gift was reaching the Chinese was a great encouragement and stimulus to me in my Christian life as a University student. It caused me to begin looking at international students on campus in a new way and I began to pray for African and Chinese students to whom I might witness and minister.

As in prayer, those who give become co-laborers in the ministry -

II John 1:6 - 8 and they bear witness to your love before the church; and you will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

Did you ever feel that life passed you by? Perhaps you received Christ late, perhaps you have family constraints, perhaps you have health constraints, perhaps you are not gifted nor called. You can still go. Your checkbook or your debit card is your passport to world missions. My good friend Sheldon Hdogson reminds me of this. I once mentioned to Sheldon that he should join me on a mission trip. Sheldon in turn reminded me that he had been on every mission trip I had ever taken since our first Bible study. He reminded me of his prayers and gifts. You know, I should listen more carefully to my own sermons because that is exactly right. By giving and praying Sheldon is as much a part of our mission work as we are. In God's eyes each of these contributions is equal. They require equal diligence, equal sacrifice and they reap equal rewards.

By giving we are adding an international element to our spiritual portfolio -
Matthew 6:20 & 21 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Paul relied on this ministry -

Philippians 4:18 "But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."

We participate in giving through our church...

Philippians 4:15-16 "And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs."

We participate in giving to individual missionaries...

Philemon 1:1 "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker,"

Philemon 1:7 "For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother."

Philemon 1:22 "And at the same time also prepare me a lodging; for I hope that through your prayers I shall be given to you."

III. Those Who Go -



(Far left, that is me waiting for flight to Yaoundé, Cameroon. Next, Eleanor teaching pastor's wives at conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon, last, is the team arriving in Yaoundé, Cameroon to join us. In this last picture – Dan McCollum, Kathy Smith and Rich Smith.)

We can all go. You can go physically like Eleanor and I – but that is not always God’s will. Often family, health, responsibilities and circumstances close this door to some. Yet we can still all go. We can go through prayer and we can go through our gifts. This is not simply motivational exaggeration. God the Holy Spirit has no need of such tactics, nor would I stoop to this. Rather it is the clear teaching of the Word of God. We see this illustrated in David’s army. Those who went out to battle and those who kept the supply lines open were to share equally. They were to share equally in the responsibilities and they were to share equally in the rewards.

1 Samuel 30:22-25

22 Then all the wicked and worthless men among those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away and depart."

23 Then David said, "You must not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us."

24 "And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike."

25 And so it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

IV. Application

This is true today. Those who Go; Those who Pray and Those who Give all share equally. They share equally in the responsibilities. They share equally in the faithfulness. They share equally in the sacrifices. And they share equally in the rewards. That is why God the Holy Spirit assures us in *Philippians 4:17* ***"Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account."***

As the year end closes we will be contacting those who are personally involved with GCI by being one or more of the “Cords” to prayerfully consider an increased involvement in their financial support. Please join all those who receive this Prayer Dispatch in lifting these needs to the Lord.

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 with 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROdgSbjJoFw>

So Send I You

So send I you to labor unrewarded, To serve unpaid, unloved, unsought unknown,
To bear rebuke, to suffer scorn and scoffing,

- So send I you, to toil for me alone.

*So send I you to bind the bruised and broken, Oer wandering souls to work, to week, to wake,
To bear the burdens of a world a weary*

- So send I you to suffer for My sake.

So send I you to loneliness and longing, With heart a hungering for the loved and known,
Forsaking home and kindred, friend and dear one

- So send I you to know My love alone.

*So send I you to leave your life's ambition, to die to dear desire, self will resign,
To labor long, and love where men revile you*

- So send I you to lose your life in Mine.

So Send I you to hearts made hard by hatred, To eyes made blind because they will not see,
To spend, tho it be blood, to spend and spare not

- So send I you to taste of Calvary,

(Margaret Clarkson Margaret Clarkson experienced great pain and loneliness in life. First in an unhappy home and suffering from infantile arthritis and later as a teacher in a far off logging camp in Canada. Unable to fulfill her dream of mission work due to her disability she gave herself to the service of the Lord in every way she could imagine. Of this hymn she is often given as an example of one who strove to conform her songs to Scripture and rewrote the words later in life, giving more glory to God and more hope in Christ.)