

Prayer Dispatch 7.12.13/ Seminars In Over 25 Countries and Counting...



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In this Prayer Dispatch...

- I. God's Blessings of the Seminars
- II. Pictorial Review
- III. Prayer Requests: As you minister with us throughout the world through your intercessions 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. Ask God to continue to bless the teaching of His holy, eternal, inerrant written Word. That it would be the power of the Word, not persuasive speech that changes lives.

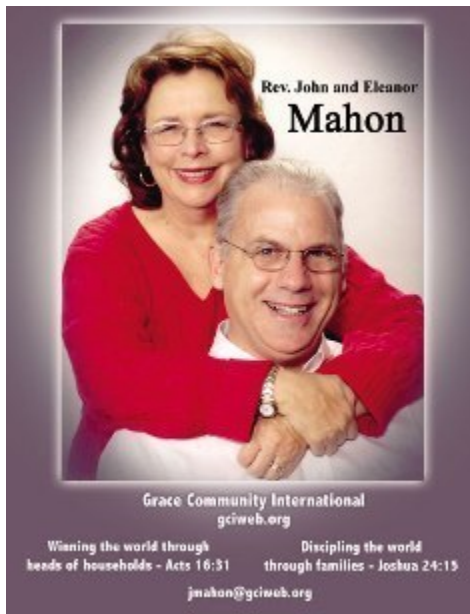
1. *Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*
2. *John 17:17 " Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*
3. *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is 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.*

B. We are in our countdown for our departure to Cameroon. Ask God to go before us - to prepare hearts to receive His Word and to open the doors for the ministry.

1. *Colossians 4:3-4 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ... that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.*
2. *Revelation 3:8 ... I have put before you an open door which no one can shut...*
3. *1 Corinthians 16:9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

C. That God would bless the ministry materially, that we might in turn bless those to whom we minister.

1. *Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
2. *2 Corinthians 9:8 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;*
3. *Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*



Dear Prayer Warriors,

These are exciting days in the ministry of Grace Community International. As we enter our ten-year anniversary, we look back on God's blessings, as we have grown from a

ministry primarily in the US and a single foreign country, to over 25 countries and expanding. Our website now contains free ministry materials in English, Spanish, Russian, French and Chichewa. God continues to bless. Macedonian calls continue to come in and the ministry continues to grow. How we praise God for His blessings and for the privilege of ministering the Word of God in the harvest fields of the world.

The Family Discipleship Seminar (FDS) and Marriage Covenant Seminar have been what you would call our “flagship seminars,” however, the “Testing the Spirits,” “Word of God” and “Witnessing” seminars are in greater and greater demand. There are many godly men teaching on these subjects and we will by no means say that we have the final word, nor do we claim to be the only ones out there teaching the truth. We are one of many whom God has raised up to teach on these areas. Each minister has his own unique approach and these seem to be the emphases that people appreciate about our ministry:

1. A commitment to the Word of God as the final authority;
2. A balance between Biblical teaching and practical application;
3. A pro-active approach, rather than reactive;
4. Workbooks and follow-up content are both evangelistic and discipleship oriented;
5. The seminars are developed to bless and grow others rather than to be “stand alone” events promoting the ministry of GCI.



At Povlosk Baptist Church we gave the Family Discipleship Seminar. Young couples from all over the region came to hear God's Word. A new young couples Bible study was started using the FDS Workbook.



In St. Petersburg we gave both the Marriage Covenant Seminar and the FDS. Pictured are young couples to whom I have been ministering since their college days. I am touched that their zeal for the Lord and the Word of God has remained strong over the years. Many have suffered benign persecution for their faith - passed over for promotion, the first to be laid off, missing a monthly paycheck due to "clerical error". They are told over and over again, "if you were just not so religious", but their faith has remained strong and they continue to witness on the job and in their apartment complexes.



Also in St. Petersburg Pastor Volkov hosted a multi-church Marriage Seminar. I have been challenged by Pastor Volkov's vision to expand the ministry of the seminary through continuing education programs for young pastors and lay leaders. The young pastor translating for me had only been married a few months but was excited to bring his leaders to the seminar. These courses are offered free of charge by the seminary and are having a big impact on the churches in St. Petersburg as they ground Bible teachers in the Word of God.



In Tyumen Pastor Ravil again was very diligent in conference planning and outreach. How we praise God for this young pastor. His zeal for the Word of God and evangelism is a great example for his church. In many churches the leaders want us to teach on marriage and family but not necessarily to them, rather to their congregation. Pastor Ravil is the exception to this rule. He now only has us teach on these areas but sets the example in his marriage and family. Special workshops were offered for the ladies. Here El teaches a session for Mothers With Adult Children. El's speaking ministry continues to grow and I praise God for a wife who not only has a heart to teach

God's Word but is willing to submit herself to the Word of God as she engages in this ministry.



As in all countries, so in Russia, the breaks are a great time of food and fellowship.



The driving force is the Word of God in all our seminars - we stand or fall on this. Our prayer for our ministry and our continuing appeal for intercessory prayers remains the same, "O Lord bless now the teaching and preaching of Your holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word..." We appeal for prayer as did Paul the first missionary - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 " Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. "



No seminar too small, it may be a room with 10 or 12 or an auditorium with several hundred, God's Word is effective without reference to the size of the audience. For Jesus, whether it was the 12 or the thousands, His message was the same and His commitment to the audience was the same. We do not put our trust in crowds but rather in God's ability to use men and women committed to His Word to change the world.



El and I minister as a team – me to men and couples and she to the ladies.



No matter the material, a clear presentation of the gospel is always given. Here Mike Daily who traveled with us shares the gospel through his testimony Mike Daily traveled with us to Zambia this past May and ministered in the area of marriage and family. One of his greatest impacts, though, was in his personal example as a witness. He led someone to Christ on the plane coming over. He led a family member to Christ in the home where he was staying. (This resulted in the restoration of the marriage and the baptism of both this man and his half-brother. Mike met in counseling and Bible study with the couple for two weeks while he was in Cameroon and they were willing to travel to the Marriage Seminar in another city.) Mike led a government official to Christ who had come by the office where we were sorting Bibles for pastors-- then Mike led a government official to Christ on the way home. As a result of this testimony and the training we gave, others began to witness and men and women began coming to Christ.

I close this e-mail, 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://nethymnal.org/htm/a/l/a/alasand.htm>

At The Cross, At The Cross

Alas! and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such worm as I?
[originally, For such a worm as I?]

Refrain

*At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!*

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine —
And bathed in its own blood —
While the firm mark of wrath divine,
His Soul in anguish stood.

*Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!*

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For man the creature's sin.

*Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.*

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away
'Tis all that I can do.

Isaac Watts - Born: July 17, 1674, Southampton, England. Died: November 25, 1748, Stoke Newington, England. Watts' father was Nonconformist imprisoned twice for his religious views. Isaac learned Greek, Latin, and Hebrew under Mr. Pinhorn, Rector of All Saints, and headmaster of the Grammar School in Southampton. Isaac's taste for verse showed itself in early childhood, and his promise caused a local doctor and other friends to offer him a university education, assuming he would be ordained in the Church of England. However, Isaac declined and instead entered a Nonconformist Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690, under the care of Thomas Rowe, pastor of the Independent congregation at Girdlers' Hall; Isaac joined this congregation in 1693. Watts left the Academy at age 20 and spent two years at home; it was during this period that he wrote the bulk of his *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. They were sung from manuscripts in the Southampton Chapel, and published 1707-1709. Watts preached his first sermon at age 24. In the next three years, he preached frequently, and in 1702 was ordained as pastor of the Independent congregation in Mark Lane.