



Equipping Leaders

A key component of GCI's ministry is that of building up and equipping leadership in local churches, with an emphasis on pastoral staff. From preaching Sunday mornings in local churches to hosting regional conferences geared specifically towards pastors, we sought to remain faithful to this calling during our time in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In writing to Philemon, the Apostle Paul remarked that "*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 1:7). Herein lies the heart of our ministry to local pastors and their wives - to encourage them in service to their congregation and further equip them in ministry. Read on to find out more about our efforts in this area of ministry during our time in Cameroon!





Refreshing Hearts

Across Cameroon, we observed the devastating impacts of the Pentecostal “Health and Wealth” Doctrine in churches. Themes such as the “Year of Miracles” or “Year of Blessing” are both popular and common, yet these phrases fail to fully represent the teachings of our Savior Jesus Christ who promised His disciples that *"in the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). As an alternative to such teachings, I challenged local Baptist and Presbyterian pastors to instead sponsor themes of a "Year of Lordship," "Year of Scripture Memory," or "Year of Witnessing” among their flocks. Many churches are now experiencing the fruit of these labors in more spiritually mature congregations and eager lay leaders.

To further encourage and equip church leadership in remaining steadfast and trusting the teachings of Scripture as it pertains to life and ministry, we hosted several conferences in partnership with various churches:

- Our four day Pastor’s Renewal Conference emphasized the importance of a continued deep walk with God and staying true to the Doctrines of Grace in the face of the many false doctrines which plague this country.
- At Maranatha Baptist Church, Eleanor and I conducted a four night Marriage Covenant Seminar from 5–8 pm each evening; I was greatly humbled by the number of men who took time off from work to attend with their wives.

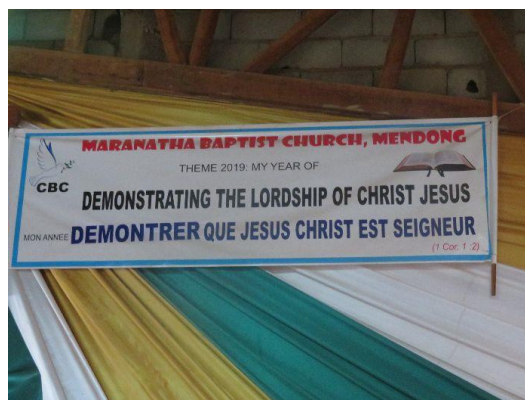
- Our church Leadership Conferences stressed Jesus Christ as Lord, cultivating lives as men and women of prayer, as well as building marriages and families that reflect the Word of God.

Join us in praying for churches this week!



For churches to continue to build upon the firm foundation of the Gospel

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)



For the faithful preaching of salvation in Christ alone

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost." (Revelation 22:17)



For the Church to remain steadfast in the face of persecutions and trials

"so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 3:10)



For pastors to be renewed and strengthened in their callings

"But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good." (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

A word of thanks

As always, Eleanor and I consider ourselves privileged to be conduits of your generosity to the churches in Cameroon. Thank you for your faithful financial and prayer support which ever drives our ministry onward for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Don't forget to keep up-to-date with the latest ministry happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb). As a reminder, you can donate towards our ministry either by mailing a check to the address at the bottom of this update or clicking on the "Donate" button below. Finally, sermons from our recent trip to Nigeria are now being posted online - beginning with the 2019 Nigeria Pastors Conference - and can be listened to or downloaded on our [Sermonaudio webpage](#).

May the God of grace continue to encourage and lift your hearts in service to Him and His Kingdom!

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1