



Final Nigeria Report

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As I share a few final thoughts from the 2018 Nigeria trip, may the Lord continue to spur all of our hearts to lift up the churches of Nigeria in prayer!



"You are the only white man who teaches the Bible when it comes to marriage and family. . ."

A pastor's wife who attended one of the Family Discipleship Seminars made this statement to me at the conference's conclusion. As I open either the Family Discipleship or Marriage Covenant Seminar, I always announce that rather than

seeking to free participants from the teachings of the Word of God, I strive to bring them under subjection to It's authority. Unfortunately, we live in an age when many so-called Bible teachers seem to spend more time explaining away than they do teaching the literal written Word of God as It pertains to marriage and family. However, the primary objective of GCI remains to lead couples and parents in the Word of God. Long after we are gone, if we gave attendees confidence in the Word of God alongside Bible studies and devotionals on the subject, then these persons will own biblical principles for themselves and continue to apply them - not because of what we said but due to the development of personal convictions from time spent in the Holy Scriptures.



Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy. . . (Jeremiah 15:16)

One of the myths concerning the church in Africa consists of the idea that in general couples and in specific men do not attend churches or conferences such as those held with GCI. I found this notion completely false. In fact, in many of our church ministries we found the men present out-numbered the women. What a joy to teach on marriage and family as you looked out and saw the earnest faces of Christian couples, pen and paper in hand, who came to do business with God. Additionally, rarely in the U.S. will a pastor sit in on my Marriage of Family Seminar, but in Nigeria, virtually every church or ministry in which we presented our seminars found the pastor and his wife in attendance, both earnestly seeking to know and apply the Word of God. Such teachability and humility was a great challenge to me.



Praying for Nigeria. . .

- For God to complete the work which He first began in the marriages and families of those to whom we ministered in Nigeria (Ephesians 5:33).
- For the Word of God to continue to mold marriages as couples complete the Bible studies and daily devotional projects which we left behind (Hebrews 4:12-13).



- For God to create in husbands and fathers a desire to lead their families spiritually out of a love of God and in obedience to His Word (Ephesians 5:25, 6:4).



- For God to bless the ministry of GCI materially that we might in turn be a blessing among those with whom we minister (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

As always, I close this update overflowing with thankfulness to God for your continued and sacrificial partnership in moving the Gospel of Jesus Christ forward among the marriages and families of the world.

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1