



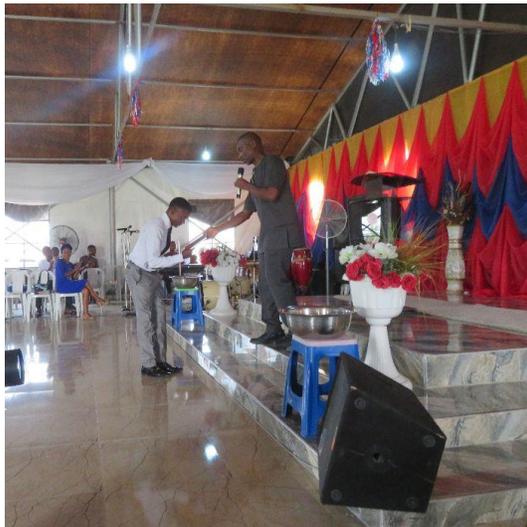
God's Grace in Ministry

One of our key prayers before we leave for the mission field is always "*God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause [Your] face to shine upon us*" (Psalm 67:1). As we began preaching God's Word in Nigeria three weeks ago, we could feel the Holy Spirit working through your prayers to prepare the way for ministry - despite torrential rains, political unrest, and our own human frailties. Read on to hear more about how God graciously intervened our first week in Nigeria!

"...pray for us that the Word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified..."

First of all, as I shared in last week's update, all boxes of Bible studies, Bible study aids and humanitarian aid arrived in Lagos unharmed and were safely transported to Pastor Emeka's home. God used a series of miraculous events to provide the younger brother of Navigator Nigeria Country Director Zack Barki (who is a senior official at the airport) to meet us as we walked off the plane and guide us through passport control, customs and into the welcoming arms of Pastor Emeka's team. (If you missed it, you can read about how God worked through your prayers to bring us to Nigeria [here](#).)

Secondly, despite the fact that the city of Lagos was experiencing torrential rains and flooding, we were able to drive to the conference center on Lagos Island where hundreds of pastors gathered. On the first afternoon, we preached to approximately 100 senior pastors who were later joined by another 400 staff persons. Attendance remained strong throughout the conference with the facility swelling at times to hold more than 700 attendees!



"...and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith..."

Following this conference, we immediately headed inland to Akure for another series of meetings. Our original plans were to travel by car to this city from Lagos. However, flooding in the interior of Nigeria combined with an unstable political situation due to it being an election month made it impossible for us to safely make the drive. Because of your generous support, we were able to buy last-minute plane tickets to fly both ourselves and Pastor Emeka inland where we spoke at a Navigator Staff Conference as well as hosted a Marriage and Family Conference for over 100 persons.



"...but the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."

(2 Thessalonians 3:1-3)

By God's grace, Eleanor and I remain healthy and able to speak at all scheduled sessions. We experienced no fever or stomach ailments even as many in attendance requested prayers for malaria, typhus, and other sicknesses. We end each day with hoarse voices, but have been able to rest and awaken every morning ready to proclaim again the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Join us in praying this week!

**For God to use His Word
supplied by your gifts to
strengthen His church**

"God blesses us, that all the ends of
the earth may fear Him." (Psalm 67:7)



**For continued strength
and stamina as we pursue
a rigorous schedule**

"that Your way may be known on the
earth, Your salvation among all
nations." (Psalm 67:2)



**For travel mercies as we
head into our final week of
ministry**

"He will cover you with His pinions,
and under His wings you may seek
refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and
bulwark." (Psalm 91:4)





For God to continue to bless those who so faithfully support this ministry

"The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered." (Proverbs 11:25)

Closing with thanks

In closing, God sustained us through your gifts and prayers and enabled us to spend our first week in Nigeria preaching more than two dozen messages, spending countless hours discipling pastors and their wives, and presenting our brothers and sisters in Christ with hundreds of Bibles and Bible reference works. If you would like to financially contribute to the ministry of Grace Community International, simply click on the Donate button below, or send a check to the address at the bottom of this update. Also, don't forget to keep up-to-date with the latest ministry happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb).

I close with the words of Apostle Paul as my prayer for you: "*May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ*" (2 Thessalonians 3:5). How we praise God for the blessing of your partnering with us as we preach the Gospel in the harvest fields of the world!

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1

Donate