

# Preparing for Nigeria

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Your faith, prayers, and gifts continue to make a difference as we prepare to depart for Nigeria!



---

## ***We are at war...***

Ephesians 6:11-12 exhorts us to "put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." [Click here to find the GCI Spiritual Warfare Prayer Guide.](#) We ask that you use it as you intercede and war against satan on our behalf.

In the last two weeks, Eleanor has broken bones in her foot and team member

Rich Smith's wife has broken bones in her elbow. This past week, I just narrowly missed being hit by a large pickup and, in avoiding it, ran into a ditch and blew out a tire. (This on the way to taking El to get the MRI for her foot.) For those of you who have been praying for us over the years, you know that it is not unusual right before a mission trip for Satan to re-double his attacks. We ask that you use the aforementioned prayer guide to earnestly pray for us during the coming week before we leave and during our time in Nigeria.



---

## ***God is at work...***

God is sovereign and is at work. At every step along the way, God has brought people around us to whom we could minister. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

At the orthopedic surgeon's office, the x-ray tech told Eleanor that the book I gave him (over a year ago) had been a great comfort to him as he has had a hard year. Both the doctor, PA and receptionist shared that they were hoping to get a book since they were always such a blessing. (They all got books!) In fact, the surgeon told me that it didn't matter who got which books as they passed them around after reading them.

The police officer who pulled over when he saw me get run off the road insisted on changing the tire. During our conversation, he shared that he had just joined a church. He was excited to get a New Testament for his car, a Case for Christ by Strobel for himself, and a book about mothers praying for his wife. In God's sovereignty, we just bought those books and had them in the back of our car.

At the MRI clinic, I was surprised to find that a gentleman in the waiting room was a retired firefighter and had served with a gentleman in my Sunday School class. He was excited to get a Case for Christ and assured me he would read it.

As far as the packing party goes, the UPS driver told me that he specifically asked for this route because the Bible and books I give out meant so much to him. He said that when he finishes with them, they go in the break room where others read them and then return them. The pizza delivery man who brought us dinner

for the packing party was also excited about receiving Case for Christ. He said, “I am not a big reader of paper books, but I will read this one tonight. I have been thinking about Jesus since Easter.”

---

## ***Packing Party Report***

We praise God for another successful packing party! You generously donated enough funds to enable us to order Bibles and pastoral study books at a volume discount. As these resources slowly accumulated in our home office, we eagerly planned the event so that volunteers might get to work as soon as they arrived. Volunteers sorted and labeled Bibles and books before packing these treasures in boxes weighing between 50-70 pounds.



As team members sealed boxes and labeled them in preparation for travel with me to the airport and beyond, these men and women also prayed over each box and the work and ministry of God's Word in the life of each pastor and church body. As a result of this ministry, national



pastors are equipped with the Word of God as well as quality reference and doctrines works for their library. These volumes generally exceed the monthly salary of the recipient pastor.

---



### ***In Closing...***

Over 150 leather study Bibles, hundreds of Bible reference books, Bible study aids, and books on doctrine were packed up by your fellow laborers. Just as we could not have packed everything in one night without those who gave their time and energy to this selfless service, without your generous prayers and support, there would have been no materials to pack!



When I return from Nigeria, we will start this process again. And again by your faith, prayers, and generosity you will bless the Cameroonians in the same manner that you blessed the church in Nigeria. I close this email, as always, with a deep and abiding

thankfulness for your sacrificial gifts  
and prayers which ever empower and  
drive this ministry forward in the  
cause of Christ.

By His mercy,  
Rev. John S. Mahon  
2 Corinthians 4:1