

# ***The Mach Family***

*Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), W. Africa*

July/August 2026

Dear Family and Friends,

Since October of last year, I have been sharing with you concerning a condition that has developed with my health. I was hospitalized that month for PMR (polymyalgia rheumatica). It is a painful condition where my immune system creates inflammation in my joints and muscle tissue. The doctors determined that I should begin declining doses of prednisone to remove the inflammation and to reorient my immune system so that it would no longer attack my body in that way.

I followed that treatment closely, leading up to a follow up visit with my rheumatologist last January. At that point in time, she felt that the treatment was working well. However, she explained then, that the second half of the treatment would take much more time. I had declined from 20 mgs. to 10 mgs. in about two months, and I had assumed that the second half would also take a couple of months allowing us to return to the Ivory Coast in mid-April of this year.

The second half of the treatment takes 10 months as I decline 1 mg. per month. This would delay our return until after October this year. After counseling with my pastor and conferring with my director, we determined that since this treatment offered a significantly good chance of "curing" the condition, I should remain stateside in order to complete it as best as possible.

I contacted you in our January/February prayer letter to explain the situation. It has been a significant challenge to delay our return to the field to this extent. I have scheduled more meetings and have worked on future ministry projects in order to make good use of this time, but our desire is to get back to the field.

My rheumatologist informed me at our recent appointment that everything looks terrific. My blood tests along with what I am experiencing are indicating that we should absolutely be able to return this year. I take my last dose of prednisone on November 1. I then have a follow up visit with the rheumatologist on November 24. If everything continues as it has been going, we should be able to return to the Ivory Coast after that appointment.

Thanks so much for your prayers during this time. We look forward to representing you again for another term on the African continent.

Most sincerely in Christ,



Robert C. Mach

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Book: [WITH A PURPOSE: The ministry of the Bob Mach family in the Ivory Coast: Roark, Monroe: 9798551713340: Amazon.com: Books](#)