

June/July Update

Hear my cry, O God; Listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. Psalm 61:1-4

June was a difficult month for me. I was totally wiped out. I went to bed tired and woke up tired. I would sit on the couch and even though I had things that needed to be done, I could not coax my body to get up off the couch. I really needed a vacation. I went for a singles retreat in Germany for ten days. It was the best time I have had in a long time. I have to admit some of the traveling to and around different cities by train and bus was a little hectic at times, but overall it was a wonderfully relaxing and spiritually refreshing time. There were singles from many different countries that attended and we spent some good time in worship, reflection on our present situation in ministry, and some great sightseeing. We visited Salzburg, Berchtesgaden, and Chiemsee Lake. The weather was unusually warm and sunny so we had some great sightseeing. It was also a cultural experience as we saw people in their traditional Bavarian dress and watched some traditional dancing not to mention that most people only spoke German so we used a lot of sign language and pointing. Ha. A bonus was that I got to see a friend that I have not seen in about three and a half years. Her and her husband are missionaries in Lauf just north of Nurnburg. It was great to spend two days with them catching up on life and hearing about their mission experiences. We planned to go to Nurnburg on Sunday to tour the city only to find out that a World Cup game between Japan and Croatia was going to be played in Nurnburg that day. Let me tell you the streets were crazy. There were people everywhere and they had their faces painted and were wearing hats and outfits to support their team. They were all waving flags and chanting for their team. It was easy to get caught up in all the excitement. We had a great German lunch and then headed to the stadium to watch the crowd of fans flood into the stadium. I bought a World Cup soccer ball to take back to the Transition House boys. I came back from the trip refreshed and energized. I now realize that I need to plan time off periodically for rest and refreshment so I don't get totally run down again. (*pictures included*)

Evangel Hospital: Both of the Nigerian therapists have returned from maternity leave so the department is basically back to normal. A team from Texas came July 23 and will stay until Aug 11. One is a Physical Therapy professor at Hardin Simmons University and two are physical therapy students. The wife and son of the professor came as well. It has been a great opportunity to look at possibly having students come each year to do their internships in a mission setting. They have seen many patients in the hospital and they have even had a clinic at Transition House where they assessed all the boys with knee injuries and back pain. It has been a real blessing to have them.

I have a big praise for one of the patients. She came to the hospital with typhoid (acute illness from drinking unclean water). Her illness was so bad that she almost did not survive the surgery, but God saved her. I talked with her some while she was in the hospital and prayed for her. Her hospital bill was very high since she had such a long stay in the hospital, so I helped pay the bill. The doctor told me she was a Muslim and that he wanted to share the gospel with her. The doctor shared about Christ with her and

her husband before they left and they said they had seen the medical love at the hospital so how could they not accept the love of God as well. They both accepted Christ as their Savior. Praise God as he saved her physically and spiritually.

My patient named Yasir who has sickle cell and a severe infection in his left leg has been discharged from the hospital. His wound is healing and he is able to walk with a walker for short distances. We are all so happy. He is such a cute boy and has the biggest and brightest smile. I am glad he is going home but I will miss being greeted by his smile everyday. I called his mother my Hausa teacher as we talked in Hausa every day and she taught me new words and phrases. *(pictures included)*

Transition House: This has been a very busy month at Transition House. This month I have put several boys to work to help me number and shelve books for the library. We praise God for all the books that have been donated, but it is a big task to catalog and shelve all the boxes of books.

We have been planning for the yearly camp for the boys in the three Transition House centers in Jos. We have 150 boys at the three centers. The camp is Aug 11-16. It is a huge process to get everything set up and ready, but the boys are so excited and it will be a week of fun. We decided to also do a weekend camp for the other centers outside Jos. We have three other centers that have a total of about 65 boys. There is an Irish team here now with 12 people to help with the weekend camp and the big camp in Jos. The weekend camp is Aug 4-6. The boys in the outside centers don't have many visitors come so this will be a fun and exciting time for them.

The teams brought a lot of sports equipment so the boys are really happy. They have been playing soccer and basketball everyday now that they have soccer balls and basketballs. They do play volleyball at times but mostly only when there is no soccer ball to play soccer. Soccer is the sport here for sure. Many of the boys are really good at soccer and a few are getting good at basketball. It is always fun to watch them play. *(pictures included)*

Praises:

- The Physical Therapy team that has come and helped us greatly with patients at the hospital.
- The Irish team that has come to help with the weekend camp and big camp for the TH boys.
- The healing of Aisha from typhoid and that her and her husband came to know Christ through the loving care at the hospital.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for energy and strength as I take care of the Physical Therapy team and help with the planning of the weekend camp and big camp for the boys.
- Pray that the Physical therapy team will have a great time while they are here and for the discussions and planning for more students to come each year.
- Pray for Yasir that his wounds will continue to heal and that he will gain the strength he needs to be able to walk without a walker.
- Pray for the weekend camp and big camp for the Transition House boys. This is such a big event for them. Pray for the salvation of those who don't know Christ and for continued spiritual growth for those who do know Christ.

Gay Lynn McCrady



Germany



Traditional dancing in Germany



World Cup fans in Germany



Retreat group eating in Salzburg



Yasir and I with his family



TH boys playing soccer