

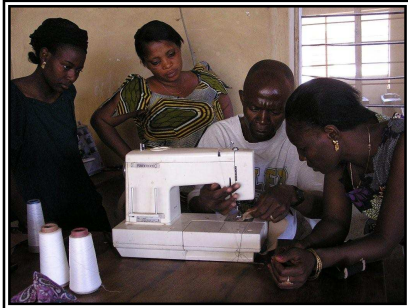
March Update

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Philippians 3:7-9

Pressure Garment Training: I met Cindy Jackson through an email sent by a friend.

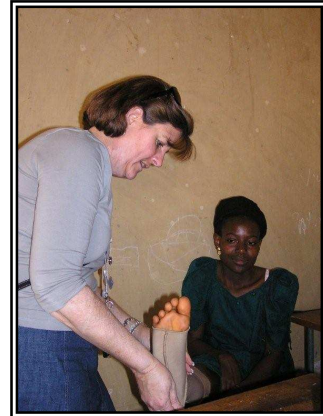
The email told Cindy’s story of being burned from a fondue pot exploding while eating dinner. She and her husband were serving as missionaries in Bolivia at the time. Cindy



was flown home and spent the next two years recovering. She has now started burn clinics in Bolivia, Ethiopia, and China. I talked with her by phone while I was on furlough in 2007 and expressed my desire for her to come and help me improve the burn program here at Evangel Hospital. Cindy was able to travel to Nigeria for one week to help train Nigerian seamstresses how to make pressure garments for burn patients.

It took us two days just to find a serger and sewing machine that would work to sew the garments. We give a big thanks to Austin, one of the Nigerian tailors who, after adjusting and testing the sewing machines, was able to make them work. Cindy spent the next two days teaching them how to measure the patient, cut out the garments, and sew them. They caught on really fast and even found some ways that were easier for them to cut out the patterns. We told them to do it the way that was best for them because they would be the ones sewing the garments. They spent time practicing making several different types of garments. At this stage, every garment they make will be new so they will make adjustments and learn how to sew them better with each garment they make.

Cindy and I spent lots of time together looking at ways to improve the hospital care of burn patients as well. We looked at different aspects from nutrition all the way to therapy and then the pressure garments. I plan to do several training sessions for doctors and nurses on burn care and especially look at better patient and family education as the family is the one who does the day to day care of the patient here. It was a whirlwind week, but I learned a lot. Now it is time to get to work and start doing the training and implementing new or better procedures at the hospital.



“Washing” the Car: I have been in Nigeria for five and a half years and I am still being exposed to new cultural experiences. I sold my old car and bought another car this



month. I really wanted a car that was higher off the ground to get down some of the rough roads like the one to our village care center. I bought a used Toyota RAV 4 and it has been really great to drive. I drove it to work the first day and everyone noticed I had a new car. Here in Nigeria, everyone is known by their car. They know I am at the hospital if they see my car and many times they will ask if I was at a certain place because they saw my car there.

When they saw me the first day, the first thing they said was, “We need to wash your car.” I just laughed and said that my car was not dirty and then went on my way. It was not until I heard the same statement two or three other times when I showed people my car that I began to wonder what washing the car means. I asked one of my Nigerian friends and he said that it is a phrase that means to celebrate the purchase of a new car. I thought, *oh, that makes more sense to me.* He said that the owner of the car brings some food and drinks to celebrate the occasion. The people gather around the car and thank God for the blessing of having a car and pray for safety and protection for the driver and the car. So I got to experience my first washing of the car. I brought some cookies and drinks for the celebration and my friends gathered around my car and prayed for me while driving on the road. I was very thankful because I can use all the prayer I can get since driving here is quite stressful.



Praise:

- The ability to buy a new car that is more capable of traveling down rough roads.
- I am so thankful that Cindy was able to come and help with pressure garment training and burn patient care.
- The three Nigerian seamstresses that gave their time and skills to learn how to make the pressure garments. Their excitement to be able to make these pressure garment as a ministry to help burn patients.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for the seamstresses and me as we get things organized and set up for this new ministry of making pressure garments.
- Pray for Chukudi, a burn patient at the hospital that he will continue to heal well and will be able to get skin grafts for his legs soon.
- Pray for Mary and me as we leave March 27 for a two and a half-week holiday to Ireland. Both of us are very tired and need some time away to rest and regain our strength to continue our ministries.
- Pray for me as I prepare the presentations for doctors and nurses on burn care.

- Pray that we will be able to find another Physical Therapist to work at the hospital. We are understaffed right now, especially when one of us is sick or on holiday.

Gay Lynn McCrady