



Post-Election Update

My last newsletter and much of my correspondence the past four months has been filled with news of crisis and destruction. I asked for prayer for peace in Jos and for the April elections, as most of us feared more fighting would occur and we were unsure of how the election process would turn out. I traveled during April and my prayer was that I would return to Jos finding it in a peaceful state. I was happy to hear that the voting process had gone well for all elections. Many people commented that it was the most free and fair elections in the past decade. The Presidential election was the most tense of the three elections and the Christian candidate won. When I arrived in Jos, I was grateful to find it calm and peaceful, but then I was saddened by the news that there had been post-election violence after the April 16 Presidential election in Nigeria's northern states.

Violence and destruction broke out in the north as people ran out into the streets in protest to the Christian president winning the election. In Nigeria as a whole, hundreds of people have been killed. We know of at least one hundred and ninety four churches that have been burnt or otherwise destroyed, over twelve hundred houses destroyed and fifteen thousand people displaced. As far as ECWA, our Nigerian partnering mission, is concerned, to the best of our knowledge so far, three ECWA pastors have been killed and at least thirty two church members have lost their lives, with sixty two members, including pastors, injured. Forty eight churches, mission stations or pastoriums have been destroyed and one hundred and six private houses have been lost. We are shocked and saddened at the loss and pray for comfort and provision for all the affected Christians in the north.

Our SIM director and his wife went to visit one ECWA compound in Malumfashi (*picture on right and below*) and they were shocked by what they saw. They reported it was sobering to look around and see all the buildings completely destroyed by fire. We praise God that no one was killed, but a few people were injured. SIM Nigeria has allocated funds to various places to help the many Christians who were affected by the crisis.



Our Gidan Bege ministry team has been looking at ways we can help the many churches in our area that have been affected by crisis in the past months. We are looking at various options such as: prayer, medicine, Bible study, film, sports, literature, and relationship building. We are looking at possibly doing trauma healing workshops for people who need to heal from loss and deal with emotional issues such as anger and bitterness. We also considered doing seminars that would encourage the Christians who are living amidst persecution and suffering. Our final goal would be to encourage them to forgive their enemies and pray for those who are persecuting them. This could be through leading a "Blessed are the Peacemakers" study, encouraging them to reach Muslims with the powerful love and forgiveness of JESUS, and assisting them in

reaching Muslims living around them through evangelism teams, tracts, sports outreach, film outreach, children's ministry and medical outreach. Pray for God's healing and provision for the Christians in the northern states and that our ministry can reach out to bring encouragement and comfort to those in need.

Transition

We all know that over time things change. People come and go, changes happen in ministries, conflicts occur, crisis develops, our ministry focus shifts, and many others. Right now we are in the middle of many transitions in Nigeria. We in SIM, have been meeting as missionary teams to look at and evaluate our work in Nigeria and decide what direction we want to take for the future. Not an easy task indeed. This year has been a year of transition for SIM, for Evangel Hospital becoming Bingham University Teaching Hospital and also for Nigeria with the crisis and the Presidential election. It is hard to make decisions when so many things are changing all at the same time.

I have been going through a transition in my life as well. This has not been an easy year for me and I have been struggling to find direction in my ministry. I have loved working at the hospital, but because of changes at the hospital and conflicts with co-workers in my department, I am questioning whether I should continue there. The Burn Garment Clinic is up and going and much of my time will be needed in that new ministry. I have also been witnessing to one M*slim family and I have developed an interest in doing more M*slim women's evangelism. I have spent a lot of time in prayer asking God to give me direction towards the ministries where I am most needed and where I can be most effective.

Praise:

- A chance to meet with the M*slim family that I have not had contact with in six months due to crisis.
- Peace in Jos for the past month.
- A good time of rest and visiting with friends while on holiday.
- Completion of the business card, brochure, and display board for the Burn Garment Clinic.

Gay Lynn McCrady

Awareness

Now all the preparation work is complete for the Burn Garment Clinic. I have designed the business card and brochure. I have completed arranging the display board (pictured below). I have completed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the pressure garments and included pictures and case studies. I have to say a big thanks to many of my burn patients who agreed to let me use their pictures for the display board and my presentation.



I have two patients who have been wearing the garments that have kept in touch with me. One has worn the garments for ten months and reports that they have helped flatten the scars and reduced itching. He says that he feels uncomfortable without the garments. The other patient wore the garment for over a year and it helped reduced scars from forming and has made the skin smoother.

I will be traveling to various hospitals and clinics doing awareness about the burn garments to doctors and Physical Therapists. Pray that the presentations will be effective and many patients will be referred to the clinic for treatment.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for healing and provisions for the Christians in the northern states.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to meet with the M*slim family and for their salvation.
- Pray for Iyabo, Austin and I, as we work at the Burn Garment Clinic.
- Pray for me as I go out to do awareness about the Burn Garment Clinic in many hospitals and clinics.
- Pray for me during this time of transition. Pray as I seek God's leading in what ministry he has for me here in Nigeria.

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