



McCraryMessage

Ministering in Nigeria

September 2006

Though my first term is coming to a close and I will leave for furlough at the end of this month, I have been busy with many activities. I worked at camp for the boys in the Gidan Bege ministry, hosted a team working at the hospital and worked on my ministry video for furlough. I have also been spending time saying good bye to all my Nigerian friends and co-workers. Let me give you an update on these activities.



“Aunty, Is camp coming soon?” “Where are we going for camp this year?” These were the questions I was asked frequently as the boys grew more excited about camp. This year I was assistant camp director which means I was helping to plan for camp and making all the preparations long before August when the camp was held. We had one hundred and sixty boys this year. Wow, that was a lot of boys to have for five days! We had a wonderful program planned with the theme “Remember your Creator” from Ecclesiastes 12:1. A team of short termers from Ireland came to help with the camp. The boys were involved in activity groups such as jewelry making, woodcarving, cooking, hiking, arts and craft, Lego and wire cars, tie and dye, clay, basket weaving

and sports. We had teaching groups for the boys broken into three age groups. We had several topics that were relevant to the issues they are facing in their lives like dating, planning for the future, goals of education and many more. The boys said that they enjoyed the teaching sessions the most. The venue was different this year. We had the camp at a high school in Jos and the facilities were really nice. We stayed in the dorms and for the most part we had good water and electricity. We did have to use a generator at night for most of the programs as the



electricity went off. We had toilets this year instead of a hole in the ground like last year. One of the evening programs was talent night and many boys performed special numbers such as singing, dancing and choreography. I performed a dance routine with a group of boys and I think I surprised most of the boys and staff. They said, “Aunty, you danced good.” I showed them that white women can dance! Ha. You will also notice in the pictures that I had a new hairstyle this year. I had my hair braided so that I did not have to worry about my hair during camp. It took a little getting use to, but everyone loved it. The boys had a wonderful time studying the Bible, singing, dancing, and most of all eating some really good food. I was busy solving all the problems that occurred and trying to keep things organized and running smoothly. I do have to say that I was definitely worn out by the time the week was over. It was all worth it in the end as

I had some wonderful experiences that I will never forget. It is encouraging to know that several boys accepted Christ as their Savior and many that committed to developing a deeper walk with God.



Physical Therapy Team

A team of five people came for three weeks to work at the hospital. The leader is an associate professor of Physical Therapy at Hardin-Simmons University and he brought his wife, son and two Physical Therapy students. This was a trial trip to see the needs of the Physical therapy department at the hospital and to consider bringing students to Nigeria for their internship in a mission setting. It was a new experience for me as I have never hosted a team coming to Nigeria. It was so great to have them and they were such a blessing to the department. The students were able to see inpatients and outpatients with a variety of disabilities; some they would never see in the United States. They also were able to experience the struggles of treating patients in a culture that is way behind the United States in medical technology and treatment. They brought many supplies for the department that were really needed. We were able to look at medical supply stores and see what equipment is available in Nigeria so they could better understand what equipment they could bring for us next year that is unavailable here. The students also went out to Transition House several afternoons and did evaluations on some of the boys who were having knee problems and low back pain. I pray that their time here was a life-changing experience and look forward to the possibility of other students coming out next year.

Praise

- I have a woman to run the playroom while I am on furlough.
- Yasir's leg is healing and he is able to walk with a walker.
- The Physical Therapy team had a great time and they were so helpful at the hospital.

Prayer

- Pray for Raibu, my spinal cord injury patient, who was discharged from the hospital and we are now trying to get him into a computer maintenance program so he can get a job.
- Pray for Miriam who is having pain in her leg and still has to wear the external fixator for three more months.
- Pray that I will finish well. Pray that I will be able to say my good byes to all the Nigerians and wrap up all of my work at the hospital and Transition House.
- Pray for strength for the workers at the hospital and at Transition House as they continue the work while I am gone.

Gay Lynn

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

II Corinthians 12:9

A Time to Say Good Bye

It is hard to believe that three years has already passed. I have had some rewarding experiences here as well as some frustrations as language learning and cultural adjustment is not always easy. I have seen the ministry at the hospital grow and expand in so many ways. My role in the hospital has grown as I have developed friendships with the staff and had the opportunity to educate and demonstrate what skills I have to offer in the treatment of patients. The playroom in the pediatric unit has been a very successful and rewarding project and also a great blessing to all the children who come into the hospital. I have also enjoyed becoming part of Gidan Bege City Ministries and working with the boys at Transition House. It is a privilege to be able to help them grow spiritually in their walk with the Lord. I so enjoy spending time with them talking about their experiences, helping them learn to read, playing games, and just being involved in their life. I have put together a video that I hope will give you a glance of the work I have been doing in these two ministries. Though it is difficult to say good bye to all my Nigerian friends and co-workers, I look forward to seeing all of you and sharing my experiences and the wonderful things God has done here in Nigeria. I don't have my schedule fully planned, but I will be in New Mexico the middle of October through December and in Texas January through April. I look forward to seeing you soon!

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