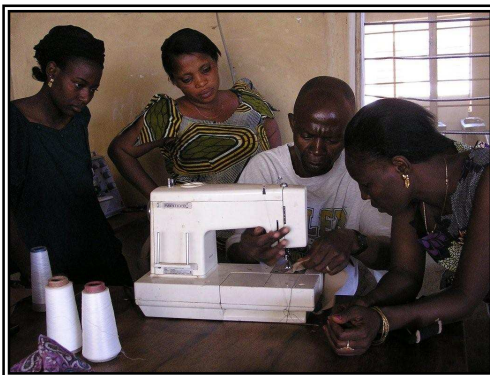
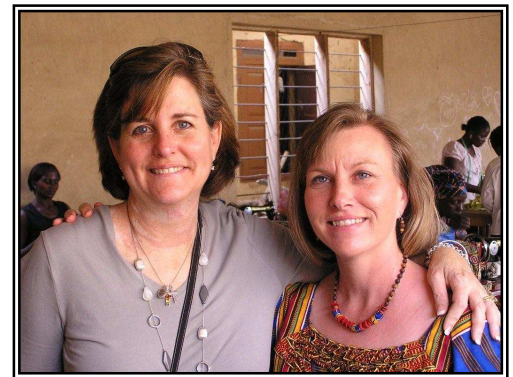




A Healing Touch

I have been working with burn patients at Evangel Hospital for the past five years. I have celebrated with the patients who have left healed and cried with the families over the ones who have died. There are many burn patients here in Nigeria and burns are one of the most challenging injuries to treat. At times I thought I could not enter the wards for fear of seeing another empty bed where my patient had stayed and other times I was overjoyed as one of my patients ran up to me and said, "Look Aunty, I can straighten my arm. It has healed well." My challenge has been to do whatever I can to offer the best care for every burn patient.

I was inspired by Cindy Jackson, a missionary who served in Bolivia, who through her own personal experience with being burned, returned to Bolivia and started a burn clinic. Cindy returned to the U.S. and started Burn Care International Inc. and now has started burn clinics in three developing countries. I contacted Cindy and expressed my desire to improve the burn program at Evangel Hospital. We communicated by email to discuss the present care at the hospital and what other treatments could be implemented. Cindy came for a one-week visit and we spent lots of time together looking at ways to improve the hospital care of burn patients. We looked at different aspects from nutrition to therapy and then pressure garments. Cindy spent time training three seamstresses how to measure and sew the pressure garments.

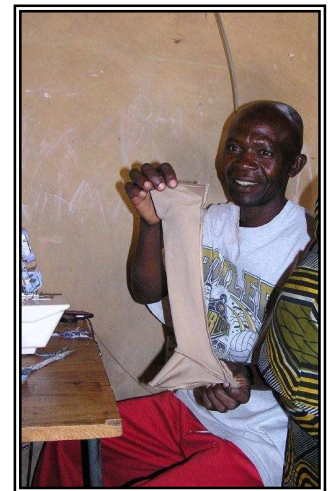


Pressure garments are tight fitting elastic garments that put pressure on the skin after a burn has healed to prevent scarring. It was a whirlwind week, but I learned a lot.

Now I am in the process of training and implementing new procedures at the hospital as well as setting up and running the pressure garment program. The three seamstresses have been practicing making the different types of garments and are continuing to improve with each garment

they make. We have made garments for about eight people so far and I know that many more will be coming.

I am also focusing on nutritional support for burn patients and have helped to design a worksheet that will enable the doctors to easily configure the amount of nutritional supplement needed by the patient and record weekly test results. I have also given two training presentations to the doctors on nutritional support and pressure garments. My next focus will be on educational materials for the families of burn patients. The family provides so much of the care along with emotional and physical support that the more they understand about burns, the more they can help in the healing process as well. My prayer is that as we put all of these procedures in place, we can provide a healing touch for each patient.



An Opportunity to Learn



We started a new program for the Secondary School boys at Transition House. During the school break, the boys were all working as apprentices in different businesses. They were welding, working with electricians, making sandals, farming, learning auto mechanics, and many other trades. Learning a trade will help them work their way through university or help them find a job when they finish Secondary School. They will go back and continue their apprenticeships on future holidays and school breaks.

I talked with several of the boys and they said that they really enjoyed working and learning a trade. One boy said that the man he is working with is really nice and encourages him in his work. He realizes what an impact an owner or boss

can have on the workers if he is kind and encouraging. Many of the boys want to continue working at their jobs in the afternoons, but we feel they need to focus on school and the regular programs they have during school. We are really excited that the boys have enjoyed their apprenticeships and really want to learn.

There is now a plot of land next to Transition House that will be used for growing crops. Each of the three houses will have a section of the land to farm. They will be growing maize, Soya beans, and Irish potatoes. The boys will be responsible in the planting, tending, and harvesting of the crops. They also will be raising rabbits. Each house will have their own female rabbit to care for along with the babies that are born. These rabbits can be sold to make money for the ministry.

Through these opportunities, the boys can learn responsibility, help raise money for their own care, and prepare themselves for their future when they finish school.



Praise

- A wonderful holiday in Ireland visiting friends and getting some rest and time away from work.
- The good start with the pressure garment ministry. Three great tailors who have been trained and are doing well.
- Apprenticeship opportunities for the boys and their excitement for working and learning a trade.
- Two good training sessions with the doctors at Evangel Hospital in burn rehabilitation.

Prayer

- Continue to pray for the burn rehabilitation program at Evangel. Pray that the training sessions, new patient documentation, and education materials will help improve the care of our burn patients.
- Pray for the tailors making the pressure garments as they continue to gain experience. Pray for us, as we will be training other tailors in the next few months.
- Pray for the boy's education and also for continued good experiences with their apprenticeships.
- Pray for the Physiotherapy department. We are in need of another Physical Therapist.

Gay Lynn McCrady

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
Colossians 3:1-2

Change of information:

If your mailing/email address has changed, or you want to receive the newsletter by email rather than mail, please e-mail me at the address below.

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