

August Update

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods." Ps 96:3-4



Girls making cookies



Family visiting from the North



Tabari, Physiotherapy assistant with his new baby.



Compound girls out for dinner.

This month I found myself in a totally new position that I have never been in for the nine years I have been in Nigeria. I am now the compound hostess and in charge of my compound. The couple who oversee the compound have traveled for home assignment for four months and seeing as I am the most senior one remaining, I get the job! I am praying that no major problems happen like pipes bursting or long power outages or....well I will stop talking about that or something will happen. Ha. Everything has gone well so far with just small things like changing light bulbs and cooking gas bottles and getting broken locks fixed. Keesha, a new short-term missionary has come so that makes five singles on the compound. I have spent time orienting her to the compound and I look forward to getting to know her better.

Breaking the Fast: We thank God that the ending of the fasting period was peaceful this year.

The celebrations were subdued this year as people were weary of suicide bombers and outbreaks of fighting. I heard many Christians voice their disappointment in not being able to celebrate with their M*slim neighbors and friends because the two religious groups cannot be together without problems arising. We spent the month praying that M*slims would get a glimpse of God through visions, stories, or other means during their month of fasting. We continue praying for reconciliation and peace throughout this country.

Good Things Come in Small Packages: "Aunty, we don't have any place to go" was the cry of the little girls at Gyero care center. Many of the children have traveled to stay with some

family member for the school break, but these girls had no place to go. So, my friend Nicky decided to have them over for a fun day at her house and I agreed to help. Oh what a day of fun activities, laughter and little girls running here and there. We took them to play in the neighboring missionary's backyard. They jumped on the trampoline, swung on the tire swing and went down the slide until they were worn out. We finger painted lots of beautiful pictures and then washed up and ate lunch. We then had a fun time of rolling out cookie dough and cutting out all different shapes of cookies and baking them to eat later. The funniest thing ever was the amount of time they spent going to the toilet. There was no way they ate or drank enough that all of them would need to go about five times. Finally, I realized that they were just fascinated with the missionary toilet and wanted multiple chances to sit on the "throne". Ha! It was a day filled with cute smiles, little giggles, and big hugs all wrapped up in these little bodies.

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure: Dauda stopped by to see me one day and after mumbling around for a few minutes, he finally got around to the reason he came- his camera was broken. Dauda is a graduate from one of our care centers. I helped with the down payment on a shop for him so he could start a business and support himself. He is a good photographer and

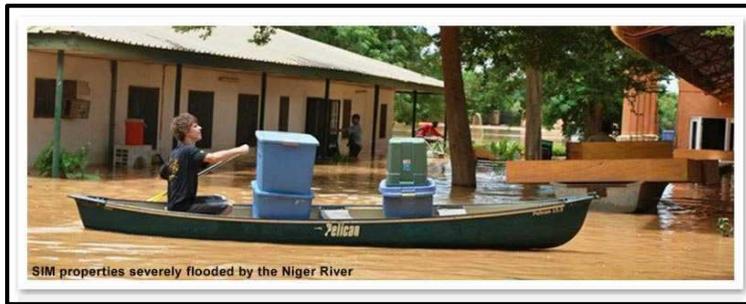


many people come to his shop for photos or to hire him for weddings or special events. A broken camera for him basically means no money for food or supplies for the month. I told him I would see what I could do. Two weeks later I was helping a missionary couple, who is retiring from the field, prepare for their garage sale. I noticed they had an old camera for sale. I called Dauda and asked him to come and look at the camera. I showed him the camera and he exclaimed, "Hallelujah, Almighty Father in Heaven." He was so excited. He sat there for fifteen minutes looking through the lens, adjusting the focus, and checking all the settings. He would pretend to take a photo and with every clink of the button he would get this big smile on his face. I wish I could have taken a video of him. As we looked at

the instruction book, I found a card inside that was dated 1982. I went to ask how much they wanted for the camera. They said, "Oh, just give us five dollars." I thought to myself, I thirty year old camera worth five dollars to one man is an amazing, life-supporting treasure to another man.

Niger Floods: Niger, our neighboring country to the North has suffered great devastation caused by floods in the recent weeks, with reports of 100,000 homeless and many people having lost their lives. Please pray for those who are suffering so much in Niger because of these floods. Also remember our SIM colleagues serving in Niamey, Niger as 53 are displaced from their homes due to flooding. There is massive flooding of Sahel Academy (school for missionary children) which is now underwater and is unusable for the current school year. Alternative

accommodation needs to be found. The Bible Center in Niamey, which is home to many



different SIM ministries including the International Evangelical Church, is also completely flooded and unusable.

Consequently there are great needs both within and outside SIM Niger and a lot of funds are needed to meet these needs. A large relief

effort is underway and SIM has a project which will serve this purpose. If you would like to donate, it is ***SIM Project ZZ 88600, Disaster Relief Fund***, through SIM USA P.O. Box 7900 Charlotte NC 28241-7900.

Praise:

- Two new patients have seen reduction in their burn scars since wearing the pressure garments.
- One burn patient and his son were able to get surgery for contractures and scarring by a visiting doctor from the USA. They are both recovering well.
- There has been peace in Jos for the past six weeks.

Prayers:

- Pray for me as I am in charge of my compound for the next three months.
- Pray for me as I will be speaking at the District Church Council meeting Sept 19-21 about the pressure garments. Pray that it will be effective in creating more awareness about the pressure garments for burn patients.
- We are trying to start a girl's transition house for our teenage girls. Pray that we can find a house to use and also for house parents and other staff who will care for the girls and help run the programs.
- Pray for Keesha as she adjusts to Nigeria and gets started in ministry.
- Pray for the missionaries in Niamey as they contend with flooding problems and reach out to those who have suffered great loss.

Gay Lynn