

# August Update

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

City Ministries Camp: The camp theme for this year was Psalms 37:3-4 “Trust in the Lord and do good. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” We studied the life of Joseph and how he had to trust in God throughout his life when things happened that he did not understand. We learned about forgiveness, God’s control over everything, and that God is the only one who can set us free from our sins.



We tried some new things this year that worked really well. We did not just have the boys from our care centers, but all the girls as well. This definitely gave the camp a new twist! We also planned three different games for each afternoon

that the kids would rotate through during the sports time. This was better than just having soccer matches that not all the kids could participate in at one time. The kids really had fun and no matter what age they were they could all participate. We also had six different crafts each day. They painted t-shirts, made juice box wallets, musical instruments, candles and fire birds, went hiking, and participated in a music and drama group.



It seems that the activity that the children and staff always look forward to is crazy football. Imagine one hundred and thirty five children and thirty staff running all over the field with four soccer balls trying to make a goal. It was like one minute you are chasing after the ball and the next minute a ball whizzes right by your head. It was definitely crazy!

I got to co-teach the little kids group for the Bible activity time in the mornings.



It was a large group of little ones that at times was a challenge to manage, but we had a great time. We broke them up into teams and had them answer questions that related to the lesson for that day. The questions helped them to put Joseph’s beautiful coat puzzle together, fish Joseph out of the pit and break Joseph out of prison. They were so cute to watch.

The last night was a special night of celebration. It was a time when some of the children could share their testimonies of what God was doing in their lives. Two boys’ testimonies really touched me. One said, “When I came to camp the first time, I did not know anything about the Bible; I just came looking forward

to the good food. Now this is my third camp and I have learned so much about God.” The other boy said, “I don’t know how to read and many others don’t either. The ministry is helping us learn to read and teaching us so many things. I am happy to be in the ministry.” After the testimonies, the staff gathered around all the children and prayed for their protection, salvation and spiritual growth. The rest of the night was celebrating with roasted meat, drinks, and lots of dancing. The camp was really a blast! When I woke up on Saturday, I could not believe it was already the last day.



When the boys were packing to leave, one boy became upset because someone had stolen some of his things. He told his group leader, but then said that he had studied about forgiveness here at camp, so he knew he needed to forgive the person who took his things. Wow! He had already applied what he learned to his life even before he had left camp. I pray that others will do the same.

### Hospital Happenings:

- The playground is now getting its final touches and will be opening the beginning of September. It has taken a long time to complete, but everyone is excited to see it open soon. I look forward to seeing the smiling faces of the children as they play on the playground.
- We have been praying for another Nigerian Physical Therapist. We have just gotten a word that a corper, a new graduate who is doing her one-year of youth service before getting a job, has been placed at Evangel Hospital. We pray that she will work well with us in the department and stay and work here after her year of service is finished. We also have a Physical Therapist coming from Switzerland in October to work here for four months. Thank you for all your prayers the last few months for another Physical Therapist.
- We have several new missionary doctors that are here or are coming soon to work at Evangel Hospital. It is great to have some more medical staff that are interested in coming to the mission field to serve.

A New Home: Our seven boys that graduated from High School have now gone to their assigned care centers to serve the ministry for the next four months. We pray that this will be a good learning experience for them. Many of them looked sad to leave their friends and home they have had for the last several years. But I know they will enjoy working with the boys in the other care centers and will be a great help to the uncles working there. Pray for the uncles as they take on a mentoring role for these boys. Pray that the boys will be good role models for the younger boys and they will learn a lot themselves from this experience.

### Praise:

- The playground is finally finished and will be open for all the children who have been waiting excitedly to go in and play.
- A successful and fun filled camp for the children in the ministry.
- The change in many of the children's lives since they returned from camp.
- The new Physical Therapist for the hospital.
- The opportunity for the graduating boys to experience living and working in a different city and care center.
- A big Thank You to all of you who sent gifts to help with camp, the playground and medical assistance for poor patients.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the children who accepted Jesus as their Savior at camp. Pray for the continued spiritual growth of all our children in the ministry.
- Pray for strength and financial support for the staff and children in our outside care centers. Pray they will be able to raise local support from the churches to help provide for their needs.
- Pray for the financial needs of the ministry to support all our street children/orphans with food, clothing, and school fees. Pray for financial support for evangelist outreaches to the villages and unbelievers in the community.
- Pray for strength for me as I round up my projects here and prepare for home assignment December-June.
- Pray that I will find a vehicle I can use while I am on home assignment.

Gay Lynn McCrady