

## December Update

WOW! It has been a busy month with many parties and fun activities, which I will talk about later. But first I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I want to thank you so much for your financial and prayer support. Without your support I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have in the ministry this year. I have so enjoyed the e-mails and cards that I have received from many people and I want to thank everyone who has given toys and supplies for the ministry. I wish I could send you a picture of every smiling face that I see playing with the toys and dolls and coloring in the coloring books. Even though you are in America, you make a great difference in the lives of the children here with your gifts and prayers.

I just want to say that even though I am in Nigeria, I do celebrate American holidays. The American missionaries here had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with American food at least as close as we could make it. I even got to celebrate Thanksgiving twice as the missionaries on our compound had our own Thanksgiving dinner the Saturday after Thanksgiving. *(picture attached)*

**Celebrations:** The Gidan Bege ministry had four Christmas parties in one week. There was a Christmas party at the two facilities that house the street boys and as well as the Nigerian Missionary Kid's school and then there was a party for the staff and volunteers. It was a busy but very fun week. The children each got small gifts as well as some special food that they don't usually get during the year. The TH boys got a gift wrapped in the Texas flag as many of the toys were donated by a team from Texas. The children will also be given some new clothes the day before Christmas to wear to church on Christmas day. Many children performed special numbers and there was a lot of music and dancing. The sign of a good Nigerian celebration is music and dancing. Thank you so much for your donations. I was able to give a large donation to the ministry that helped to by the food for the children this next year and also for the children's Christmas clothes. *(pictures attached)*

This month there were two weddings. One was Danjuma's who is a Nigerian worker in the SIM office and the other was one of my good friends Victor, a Nigerian staff who works at Gidan Bege. It was a great time to celebrate with them this special time in their life. My car was used as the car for the bride and groom in Victor's weddings. It is always a fun time of dressing up with big head ties, dancing, and throwing money at the bride and groom as they dance during the reception.

**Hospital:** Miriam, the M woman who I am helping medically and also trying to share the gospel with, had her baby three weeks ago and she named her after me. That was a great surprise. My first thought is that I want the baby to know Christ. Continue to pray for Miriam, as she will undergo another surgery for her fractured leg in January. Pray that through my continued contact with her that I will be able to share the gospel with her and her family. I will send a photo of the baby when I get a chance.

There were many Christmas parties at the hospital as well. I took fourteen of the Transition House boys to the hospital to sing Christmas carols. We had a good time singing and we handed out gifts to the children who will be in the hospital over the holidays. It was a good experience for the boys to see that there are people who are worse off than they are and several were really impacted by some of the injuries that the patients had. *(Photos attached)*

I pray that you will have a blessed holiday time with your family and friends. May the love of God surround your celebration time and be a light that shines for those who do not know Christ. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Until next year,  
Gay Lynn McCrady