

December Update

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

A Day at the Mall: I traveled to Kano the Saturday before Thanksgiving to visit Mary



and the Hammacks, missionaries in Kano. I was shocked when Mary told me that there is a mall in Kano. I thought that a mall was not something I would ever see in Nigeria. Mary's birthday was November 25 and we decided that we would go to the mall for her birthday.

The mall opened in August and it is really nice. It has two floors, is air-conditioned, and has

many nice shops. We looked like kids in a candy store as we walked around window-shopping. We went inside the supermarket and found that many of the items were cheaper than other shops. We were excited to find cereal, tea, spices and other items at a real affordable price. There was an electronics/ appliance store, a kitchen store, a bathroom store and several stores selling clothing, shoes and handbags. What a nice change from shopping at the market where you have to fight the mob of people, watch where you step, squeeze into the small shop, and say no to all the vendors who show you items and try to get you to buy them. I will definitely be visiting the mall on my future trips to Kano.



Feast, Feast, Feast: I went to Kano to visit my friends, but little did I know that I was headed into some royal feasting. There were some other missionaries that came up to Kano for the weekend to have a break and to do some cloth shopping. We went to Pizza Hot (not Hut), which is the place to go eat in Kano. The pizza is great. The next day we were all invited to one of the Chinese restaurants by the owners, who are friends of the Hammacks. They brought out so much wonderful tasting food. We thought the food was finished, but they just kept bring out more and more. I was so full I thought I would burst. Then they brought out a heart- shaped cheesecake since it was the Hammacks anniversary. Wow! I have not had cheesecake that tasted that good in a long time. I felt like I had eaten enough for the next two days. We went out the next night for Lebanese food before the other missionaries left to return home. This was a lighter meal. Thank goodness!

We spent the next two days relaxing after eating so much food and planned our menu for Thanksgiving Day. We had a traditional American meal, at least as close as you can get. We had chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, bread, my family's favorite corn casserole, and a Jell-O salad. We were full yet again! Since we had so much food



at the beginning of the week, we could not even imagine eating birthday cake, so we made Mary's birthday cake the dessert for our Thanksgiving meal. We got an unexpected surprise for Thanksgiving. One Nigerian missionary, who lived in Kano when I came in 2003, was visiting and joined us for Thanksgiving dinner. He married an American missionary and they are now living in America and raising support to go to Mali. I had a very good visit and did many fun things. But it was time to go home

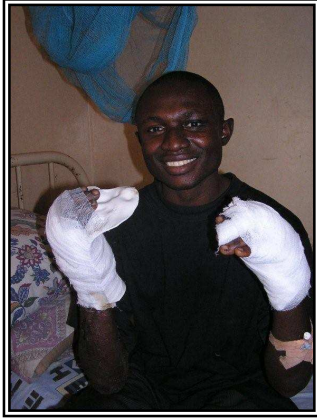
and lose the five pounds that I gained while I was there. Ha.

Jos Riots: I was preparing to leave Kano the day after Thanksgiving, but I received a text telling me that riots had broken out in Jos and that I could not return home. After hearing bits and pieces about what was happening in Jos from text messages and calls, I was allowed to return to Jos four days later. Not really knowing all that had happened and hearing that there were many police check points on the road made me a little nervous as we drove home. We made it safely with no problems, but we were stopped many times. Actually that made me feel safer knowing that there were so many police and army protecting the city.

My first sights were burned schools, a whole car lot of burned cars, burned cars on the side of the road, and several burned businesses. Not many people were out on the roads especially since it was close to the 6:00 p.m. curfew. I returned home to a big welcome from the people on my compound. I then got the full story of their experiences of seeing smoke in the sky, hearing gunfire, and being confined to the compound. They had some very interesting meals as they had to combine what food they all had in the house to make meals. I was only home one night and then we heard about a threat to some offices around our compound. We decided to leave and go to the Miango Guest House about forty five minutes away. The M holiday (Sallah) was that weekend so we decided to stay until it was finished. There were no further outbreaks, so we returned home. Everything has been calm since.

The issue I face now is what to say to people. I was not here during the riots and even if I was I would not have seen or experienced what they did. I have mainly been a listening ear. I just sit and let them tell me their stories even though many of them are painful to hear. I have prayed with many people and have helped with food and transport for some that have no home and want to travel to the village. The government, SIM and many other organizations have given aid to help the refugees. The response to an incident like this is so difficult. Pray for the pastors as they form their responses to their congregations and neighbors. May we still stand behind our Christian beliefs and follow what is says in Romans 12:14-21...don't repay evil for evil and Matthew 5:44...love your enemies and pray for them. I want to share with you one way our boys in the care center responded. During the chaos, when everyone was running for cover, the boys took in several M children so they would not be killed. They also helped a man who was beaten and cut up and brought to the center for Auntie Vicky to treat his wounds. I am proud of them. I want to thank all of you who prayed for us here in Jos during the riots and continue to pray for peace.

Now my time is spent treating the many patients who were injured. I have had patients suffering gunshot wounds, hand injuries, fractures, and other wounds from various injuries. This is Sunday. He suffered injuries to both hands from a bomb



explosion. A small bomb was thrown towards him and several other people. The bomb did not go off, so he picked it up to throw it back at the other people and it exploded in his hands. He sustained very deep wounds on the whole of his right wrist and hand, a wrist fracture on the left, and a wound on the palm of his left hand. I made a splint for the right hand to keep it in good position while it heals. We are waiting for the wound to heal on his left hand before we can address the wrist fracture. I have started range of motion exercises for the fingers of his left hand. We pray that the injuries will heal well and that he will regain good function in both hands.

Praise:

- Safety for the entire mission compounds during the riots.
- A wonderful time in Kano with Mary and the Hammacks.
- A safe journey from Kano to Jos.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for the SIM annual conference January 7-11. We are having trouble getting a visa for the speaker.
- Pray for continued peace in Jos. Pray for all the Nigerians suffering effects from the riots. Many lost their homes, businesses, possessions, and many were injured or had loved ones die.
- Pray for all the staff at Evangel Hospital who treated the mass number of patients that came in injured and continue to treat those suffering injuries.
- Pray for the salvation of the M family that I have been witnessing to for the past few months. They are reading the Bible and asking lots of questions.
- Pray that my support will not decrease due to the economic problems in the US right now. I have faith that God will provide for all my needs.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gay Lynn McCrady