



## Taking the Next Step

Alheri received exciting news this month—she was accepted into educational college! We were excited but a bit shocked, also, as they informed us only four days before she would start college. She was happy and a bit scared at the same time. It is a big step to go off to college on your own and she only had a few days to prepare herself and gather all her supplies, food, and school materials. Two other girls she knows will be attending that college so it is some comfort that she won't be totally alone.



Alheri has been in the ministry since 2006. She was brought to us after she was accused of involvement in the occult and left with relatives in the village by her parents. Her relations continued accusing her and even threatened to kill her. A pastor in the village heard about Alheri and took her to a prayer house for deliverance. He then brought her to Gidan Bege (House of Hope) and she has remained in our center ever since. Alheri became a Christian and is now living a life for Christ. Alheri graduated from high school last year and has been doing an apprenticeship in sewing. We are proud of her and pray for her as she takes her next step in life.

Faith has been in the ministry since 2009. Her father died and her mother's location is unknown so she was living with her older brother. Her brother was involved in sex trafficking and, fearing he would force her into that life, she ran from the house to live on the street. One pastor found her on the side of the road and, after hearing her story, brought her to Gidan Bege. She was taken into the ministry and transferred to our teenage girls' center one and a half years ago. After finishing sixth grade, it was decided that she would do the vocational track rather than go to junior high. Faith has learned knitting, jewelry making, and has completed some basic training in baking.

We are excited that Faith is starting a small business selling baked goods. We have helped her with set up costs and paid for some baking lessons. She is



selling fish rolls at two schools during their break times and at one shop near the girl's center. Faith has learned how to make two types of cakes and icing and desires to learn cake decorating.

I joined her during one baking lesson when she was learning to make donuts, which she will mainly make for special occasions. The blessing of being there during baking time is you get to sample the product. They were good! Now our challenge is working with her on proper record keeping, pricing of baked goods and estimation of expenses. It may take some time to really see some profit, but you have to start somewhere. Pray for Faith as she begins this new business adventure and for us that we will be able to give her guidance and encouragement along the way.

## The Struggles in Nigeria

The current situation in Nigeria sometimes weighs heavily on me. Realizing that the needs are much more than one person can resolve, I leave the future to the Lord and focus on being faithful day by day for my own part. I spend much time in prayer for the issues facing this country and look for ways to walk alongside Nigerians and help those who have been affected by the past and continuing violence.

As for the country, there is a lull in the tension that was focused on the presidential election before its postponement. We know the tension will rise again as the time grows closer to the next appointed date for the election, which is March 28, and then the state elections on April 11. Please be in prayer with us for safe and peaceful elections.

The 1.5 million internally displaced persons from the Northeast is a testimony to the conflicted state of Nigeria. Please pray for the army's efforts to subdue 'Boko Haram' and provide stability in the



Northeast. Pray, also, that many of the 'Boko Haram' members would see that what they are doing is wrong and would come to know the Lord. SIM Nigeria has been working alongside other organizations to help the displaced and hurting people from the Northeast. SIM Nigeria gave funds to buy food and blankets for the people in the refugee camps. Several SIM missionaries have led trauma-healing workshops for crisis victims from the Northeast and also for pastors and church leaders working in the Northeast. They have heard many sad stories from these people who have lost relatives, homes, and belongings and from many that had to run and

hide in the mountains until they could make their way to Jos. But the workshop leaders also reported they saw the beginning of healing in these peoples' lives and some were even able to forgive those who harmed them. The pastors and church leaders were so happy to have attended the course and expressed their appreciation for the materials and training that they received. They will be able to train other leaders in their areas as well as provide trauma-healing workshops for the many affected people in the Northeast.

Several crisis victims who suffered physical injuries have come to the Healing Touch Clinic for treatment. One lady came with burns to her arms and hands and another lady with burns on her right arm and leg. One had already developed scarring, which could be reduced by wearing a pressure garment. Various others are still healing that will need a pressure garment in time and with continued violence, more will be coming to the clinic. It is a blessing to help these people heal from their physical wounds while praying with them for God to help heal their emotional and spiritual wounds.

As our supply of pressure garment material became low, I hoped to buy it from a cloth vendor in Nigeria. When I learned that he did not have a supply of the right material, I acted quickly to ship some here from the USA by container. The container was delayed because of the holidays, but it arrived just before our supply of material ran out. What an answer to prayer! Now we have plenty of material to provide garments for the crisis victims and many other burn patients who will come to the clinic.



Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support that sustained me through the past year. I have had finances to provide for the medical needs of many children in our Gidan Bege care centers and also to buy supplies for the Healing Touch Clinic which has helped so many burn patients heal without scars. If you desire to send a donation to help support any of the ministries mentioned, You can send a check to SIM: Box 7900, Charlotte NC, 28241-7900, marked 'for the ministry of Gay Lynn McCrady'.

### Praise:

- Several crisis victims received pressure garments from the clinic to reduce their burn scars.
- Alheri was accepted into educational college.
- Faith has been approved to sell her baked goods in two schools and one shop.
- We received the ordered pressure garment material just before we ran out of our supply of material.
- The successful trauma-healing workshops for those affected by the crisis in the Northeast.

*Gay Lynn McCrady*

### Prayer:

- Pray for Alheri and Faith as they begin their next step in life.
- Pray for healing for two crisis victims that were fitted with pressure garments this month.
- Elections have been delayed until March 28 and April 11. Pray for safe and peaceful elections.
- Pray for several TH girls who are struggling with attitude problems and disrespecting the Mama living with them at the center.
- Pray for me as I speak to the Women's Fellowship at one church on March 17 about burns and pressure garments.
- Pray for SIM Nigeria as they work to get renewal of our missionary quota positions so we can remain in Nigeria.

The logo for SIM (Sisters in Mission) is displayed in a large, bold, red serif font.

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