

February Update

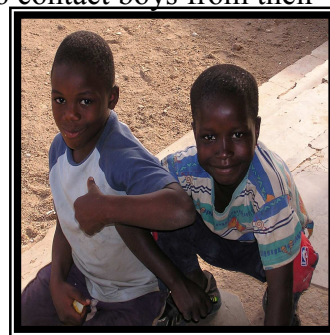
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9.

Double Blessing I want to thank all of you who prayed for me and the Physiotherapy department the past few months. Our prayers were answered and Kemi, the new therapist started this month. We are so happy. Now that there are three therapists the workload is less and we are not so stressed. Many times I have heard that when we pray God often gives us more than we ask of Him. Well, this month I can say a big Amen to that statement. We prayed for another therapist and we not only got a therapist, but we also got an attendant for the department. Tabari assists with patients, runs errands, cleans the department, and best of all he translates when we have patients who don't speak English. What more can you say but that the Physiotherapy department received a double blessing. Praise the Lord! Having another therapist gave me the ability to take a much-needed vacation. I needed some time off for rest and time to get things done that I had put off for so long. It was a good week of rest and productivity. I now have much more energy to give to the ministry.



Me, Kemi, Deborah, Tabari

My Two Cuties Each leader at Transition House has one or two contact boys from their family group. We spend time talking, discussing problems, praying, and playing together. My contact boy was reconciled back to his family last month, so I was given two new contact boys. I want you to meet Shadrack (6) and Jerry (8). They are my two cuties and we enjoy spending time together talking and playing. Jerry loves puzzles and can do 100 piece puzzles that some of the older boys can't do. They both enjoy coloring and playing soccer. I pray for wisdom as I help these boys grow emotionally and spiritually.



Let me give you a short update on the boys that we reconciled home or enrolled in boarding school. Many of the leaders have been out to see the boys for follow up. We have had good reports that the boys are doing well with their families so far. That is such a blessing to hear. Stephen and Matthew, two boys that were in my discipleship class, went home to live with their father. Sadly, their father is now dying from liver failure due to alcoholism. Please pray for them during this tough time. I plan to go visit my former contact boy and the other boys near his house. The boys in boarding school are doing well, but reported that school is hard and it has been a transition for them. In this school they are learning a trade along with their regular classes which will benefit them after they graduate. They said they realize how good they had it at Transition House and sent a message to the other boys telling them to be grateful for the care they are getting. They also sent a message to the cook to thank her for all the good food she cooked. The

food at the school does not taste as good. I will continue to give you updates on the boys and how they are doing.

Life and Death After living in Nigeria for several years, there are many cultural norms that stand out. The friendliness of people as they laugh and greet each other on the street, the colorful clothing people wear, their love of music and dancing at programs, and the unavoidable signs of poverty as you travel the streets. But two things that really stand out to me are the joys of new life and the frequency of death. I experienced both of these this month with people close to me. Ladi, the burn patient that we brought from the village to provide treatment, died after struggling to heal for several months. Aminci, one of my friends working at Gidan Bege, lost her baby just days after he was born. It was a time of mourning and praying to God for strength. Working at the hospital puts me in the forefront of dying people from cancer, tumors, HIV, diseases and accidents that



Miracle

lead to death or that our limited medical care cannot help. Our answer is that we pray and put them in God's hands. But we turn around and out of our mourning we are blessed with the joys of new life. Rev Haruna, the manager of Gidan Bege, was blessed with a new baby in his family. This baby is not his own, but was rescued from death when children found her after seeing dogs licking and chewing on her. She was placed in the care of Rev. Haruna and his wife. Her name is Miracle, which is the most fitting name for her. Also, my friends Victor and Larai just had their first baby. We have had lots of rejoicing this month as well. May our focus be on God as we mourn over those who have died and celebrate the joy of new life

Goodbye and Hello I have become really good at saying hello and goodbye as we have so many short-term missionaries that come and go from my compound. But this month the goodbye I had to say was very hard. Terry and Sue Hammack are very special friends to me. They were the ones who greeted me when I came here almost four and a half years ago and made my first term the smoothest it could possibly be. I will never forget the talks out on the front porch with Sue or all the fix ups Terry did in my place. Terry and Sue have given many years to administration and now are moving back to Kano, a city four hours north of Jos where they served previously. It was not a forever goodbye as I will see them periodically, but my compound will not be the same without them. But I also gave a big hello to Chris and Helen Cowie who have come to serve long-term and will be living in my compound. They will take over Sue's position as personnel manager and some other ministry opportunities as well. It has been fun spending time with them and I look forward to getting to know them better.

Praise

- My computer went down for a few days, but repaired itself and is now working fine.
- A new therapist and an attendant for the Physiotherapy department.
- A week off for rest and accomplishing needed tasks.
- The Transition House boys doing well with their families and in boarding school.

Prayer Request

- Pray for the carpenter and I as we work together to begin building the outdoor playground at the hospital.
- Pray for the patients at the hospital as we have many who have serious injuries or illnesses that will take a long period of recovery or they may never recover fully.
- Continue to pray for the Transition House boys who have gone back to their families or are now in boarding school. May they be a light for God to the people around them.
- Pray for Stephen and Matthew as they deal with their father dying.
- Pray for Terry and Sue Hammack as they get settled into their home in Kano and transition into ministry there.

Gay Lynn