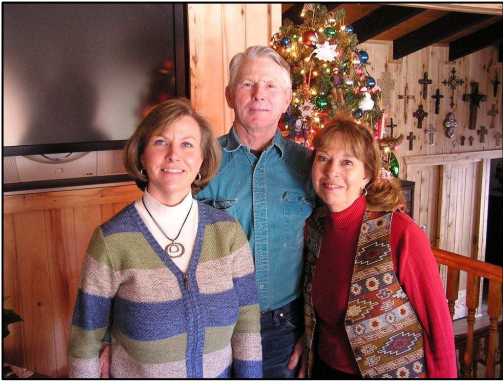




I'll Be Home For Christmas

I arrived home from Nigeria on December 7, 2009 excited to be able to spend the holidays with my family and friends. My favorite Christmas song was "I'll be home for Christmas." I just changed the ending to "and it won't be in my dreams." I spent Christmas with my parents in Glorieta, NM enjoying the snow,



sitting by the fire, and getting to experience all the Christmas festivities. Many people fuss about all the shopping, crowds in the stores, and rushing to all the Christmas activities, but I just soaked it all up since I don't get to experience it in Nigeria.

I got to meet the new addition to the family, Pandy, my parent's little Chihuahua. It took a while for her to get used to me being in the house, but soon we were playing fetch with her toys and I was accepted. She got a candy cane stuffed toy for Christmas and she was so excited. She played with that toy until eleven thirty at night and then she had to sleep with it. It was

so hilarious. It was not long before she had chewed a hole in it and the stuffing was coming out. She definitely kept us all entertained.

I spent the first few weeks transitioning back into the American culture. You think that you will come back home and everything will be the same as it was when you left, but things have changed. I have changed also as I have adapted to the culture and living conditions in Nigeria, which are definitely different than America. I had some good laughs the first week, as I caught myself looking for the water filter and then remembering that I could drink water from the faucet. And then I was cleaning up after dinner and washed the whole load of dishes before realizing I could have just loaded them into the dishwasher. Ha. I also came home to find everyone talking about Facebook, Twitter, DVR, Bluetooth, Blu ray and I was lost. I thought, "Man, I come home to my own country and they are speaking a foreign language." Thanks to the help from my good friends I am caught up on the new terminology and have learned how to use Facebook and other new technology.

I am so excited to be able to spend time with family and all of you here in the USA and catch up on what has been going on in your lives for the past few years. I plan to travel all over Texas speaking at churches and small groups along with visiting friends. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible when I come to your area.

Being here in America does not mean that I forget my brothers and sisters in Nigeria. When hard times strike, I wish that I were there with them to encourage and strengthen them. As many of you have heard, January seventeenth was the day that rioting broke out in Jos, Nigeria. Homes and churches were burned and about three hundred people were killed with many others injured. The army was brought in to stop fighting and get control and a twenty-four hour curfew was issued. There are many rumors as to what started the fighting and the real reason may never be found. All we can do is pray for peace to come in that city. I am glad that I was not there during the fighting, but in some ways I wish I was there to comfort my friends and to help treat those that were injured. We cry out to God for peace to come to Jos, Nigeria.



Teaching the Children

I had the wonderful opportunity of speaking to the RA's and GA's at First Baptist Church Waxahachie



and also to the 3rd grade classes at Academy Elementary School in Academy. I taught them about the culture of

Nigeria showing them many pictures of the clothing people wear, the market, the transportation system, and how people carry all their items on their head. I also explained the types of ministry I am doing in Nigeria showing them pictures of the hospital and the street children and orphans. I taught them a song in Hausa and then we all stood up and sang the song doing all the actions. I think the activity they liked the most was trying to carry the bowl of fruit on their head while they walked across the room. That brought lots of laughs. We had a great time and they all expressed how much they liked seeing all the pictures and learning about Nigeria.

Praise:

- A wonderful holiday with my family.
- Wonderful friends who have provided their homes for me to stay in and a car to drive while I am on home assignment.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for safety as I travel throughout Texas to speak to churches, Bible studies, and children's programs.
- Pray for the many people in Jos who were injured, lost their homes and loved ones during the crisis.
- Pray for Alex, director of our Jos Children's Care Center who was seriously ill and underwent surgery on Sunday Feb. 7. Pray for healing for his body.
- Pray for a Nigerian Physical Therapist for Evangel Hospital.
- Pray for our eight high school graduates as they are placed in houses in the community and begin working. Pray for wisdom for the staff as they help these boys transition into the community.

Gay Lynn McCrady

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen **Philippians 4:19-20**

Schedule for speaking

February 14-Lake Pointe Church-Rockwall, TX
February 21- East Texas
February 24- Women's Club Daingerfield, TX
February 27-Regional SIM Fellowship-Dallas, TX / Lake Pointe Church-Rockwall
March 7-Humble First Baptist Church
March 10-Gulf Winds Int. Bible Study-Humble, TX
April 7-11-Temple Bible Church/Evangel Hospital Temple, TX
April 20-Christian Women's Club-New Mexico
April 25-Grace Church Children's program-Dallas, TX
May 16-First Baptist Church-Mixon, TX

I am still in the process of scheduling speaking engagements in several other areas. If you want me to speak at your church or Bible study group or you would like to connect with me while I am in your area, please call me at 505-603-5021 or email me at the address below.

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