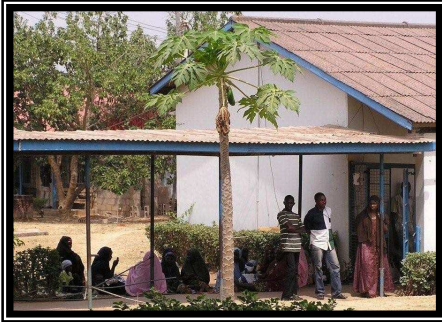




Opportunities Abound

As I walk down the sidewalk on my way to see patients, I greet many people sitting outside who are there to care for a family member or to visit a patient. Many of them are easily identified as M by the clothes they wear, but aside from that it is difficult to tell. As I pass, it reminds me of all the opportunities I have to share Christ with so many people. The best way to know what they believe is to spend time talking with them and getting to know them. Sometimes the language barrier makes it difficult to communicate, but sometimes it can open a door as well. They love to hear the “white person” speaking Hausa. Even if you only know greetings, they love to ask you, “How is your morning? How is work? How is your family?” and then they burst into laughter when you respond in Hausa.

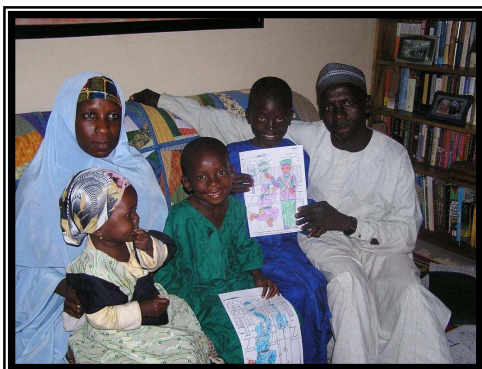


Let me share one of my experiences with you. I met Yasir about four years ago when he was a patient in the hospital. Yasir has Sickle Cell disease and was admitted because he had severe wounds on his left leg that developed

into osteomyelitis. This caused weakness in the bone and his leg was broken in two places. Due to the fractures and the severity of the wounds, his stay in the hospital was about three months.

Yasir and his family are M and they only speak Hausa except for his mother who can speak some English. I developed a relationship with Yasir and his mother as I saw him for therapy or just stopped by to bring him puzzles, Legos, or coloring pages. At that time, I was studying Hausa and I enjoyed spending time with them practicing my Hausa. I would read stories to Yasir and try to translate them into Hausa and he would correct me when needed. I learned a lot of new vocabulary just spending time talking with them. Yasir was discharged from the hospital, but our friendship continued to grow.

Along the way I had several opportunities to share with them about Christ. I went to visit them at their house and met the father and they continue to stop by to greet me when they come to the hospital. I really felt a burden to witness to them, but because of my limited Hausa, I was unable. I invited Yasir’s family to come to my house for dinner and asked one of my Nigerian friends if she and her husband would come and assist me. They were excited to help. The husband is a converted M and he shared his testimony with them. I gave them a Bible and asked them to begin reading it and that if they were interested in learning more, we would meet again.



A few months later I invited them back to my house. I found out that Baba Yasir had been reading the Bible together with a friend and he wanted to invite him to come also. I was so excited and told him he could bring him and anyone else he wanted. His friend was not able to come, but we had an exciting time that night. Baba and Mama Yasir talked about what they had been reading and they had so many questions. They did not even want to stop and eat. They understood who God was, but had lots of questions about Jesus. Our time was cut short because of the curfew for motorcycle taxis. We plan to meet again and hopefully his friend will be able to come as well. We pray that they will come to know Christ and will be able to share with others in their community.

It is a blessing to be able to freely share about Christ with patients in the hospital. We have so many patients that come to know Christ each year through the various hospital ministries. I pray that I will be watchful and willing to take any available opportunity to share about Christ.

Ring in the New Year

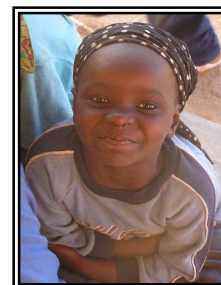


This holiday season was filled with joy and a deeper understanding of how wide, how long, and how deep God's love for each of us really is. Since I had a few days off from the hospital for the holidays, I was able to go and spend time with the girls in Gyero. Hearing their stories, seeing how God has rescued them from horrible situations and redeemed them from pasts of abandonment, neglect and loneliness helps me realize how deep God's love really is for each of us.

New Year's Eve Nicky and I spent the night in Gyero with the girls. I had so much fun. Those girls wore me out! I fell in love with Sandra and her adorable never-ending laugh. Sandra, age 6 and her sister

Happy were brought to the center by their aunt. Their aunt told us one story about the family, but we later found out she had lied. They do have parents, but they are divorced and the mother is not able to really care for them. We could tell they had been neglected when they came.

Sandra clung to me all afternoon as we played games and laughed. Sandra, Favour, and Precious, the three youngest girls, were all competing for my attention and it got a little crazy. I spent thirty minutes with Sandra and Favour spinning jacks. You would never think that you would actually do that for that long. Of course we spun the jacks on the floor, our hands, Favour's stomach, my lap, and I even spun one on Sandra's head. It actually spun on her head for a few seconds. We all died laughing. We ate dinner and then watched a movie. Several just about fell asleep during the movie because they were so tired. As I tucked them into bed and looked at their sweet faces, I thought, "What a great way to ring in the New Year!"



Sandra

Praise

- The many opportunities to witness to people at the hospital.
- The relationship that has developed with Mama and Baba Yasir and their interest in knowing more about Christ.
- The changed lives that I see in the girls at our care center.

Prayer

- Pray for the start up of the burn rehab program. Cindy Jackson from Burn Care International will be coming the end of February to help with training and teaching how to make burn garments.
- Pray for our staff at the care centers that God would give them stamina and a real desire to help these children to grow physically and spiritually.
- Pray that the carpenter will finish the remaining work on the playground equipment for the hospital so it can be installed soon.
- Pray for the salvation of Baba and Mama Yasir and for continued opportunities to share with them.

Gay Lynn McCrady

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:17b-19

Change of information:

If your mailing/email address has changed, or you want to receive the newsletter by email rather than mail, please e-mail me at the address below.

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