

January Update

“Let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight declares the Lord.” Jeremiah 9:24



Keke na pep in Kano



Preschool-paper bag puppets



Two preschool cuties



Burn patient

I am a bit late in getting this update out since this month I have been busy with so many activities. I will wish you a late Happy New Year and pray that your year has started off well.

Northern Nigeria: I spent Christmas in Kano, a city about five hours north of Jos. It was a great time of fellowship with my friends who are missionaries in Kano. Fiona, Physical Therapist from England, who is working at the hospital, came with me to Kano. She has never visited Kano, so we had a fun afternoon riding around the city in a Keke na pep (pictured above) and seeing all the sights. We had a wonderful Christmas meal, gift exchange and two nights to hang out and play games. It was great to go and encourage the missionaries working in the North. It is not any easy place to live and serve, as it is hot and about 99% M*slim.

We received some scary news on January 21 from our fellow missionaries in Kano. They reported that on January 20, coordinated attacks took place in four regions of the city of Kano from five to ten pm local time. Boko Haram, a fundamentalist group, claimed responsibility for bombing four police stations, two police barracks, an immigration and state security office, and breaking into a prison holding detained members of their sect. The missionary compound is less than a kilometer from one of the police headquarters and barracks where gun battles raged for over four hours. Their houses shook many times from explosives, large and small. No destruction happened in their specific compound and none of them were injured. We praise God for protecting all of them. Please keep Kano and the whole Northern part of Nigeria in your prayers, as people recover from this attack and try to go on with their lives.

SIM Spiritual Life Conference: On January 4-8, we had our annual SIM conference. I was on the committee and we put in a lot of hours to make this conference a great time of worship, fellowship, teaching, sharing, and prayer. Our theme was Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy

brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.” Our speaker taught from the book of Hebrews and focused on Jesus as our final Prophet, our High Priest, our Example and our Savior. We also read the book “Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ” by John Piper as preparation for conference. It is a great book and I would encourage everyone to read it. We had a wonderful time, but I was totally worn out and took some time off the following two days to rest.

Adventures With The Cuties: School has started again, so I am back with my preschoolers on Tuesday afternoons. Sometimes I want to pull my hair out, but most of the time I can't help but love them as they come running to give me hugs, make funny faces, and smile with excitement when they get to ride down the road in my car. We made paper bag animals one day (pictured above). There were lots of cows mooing, frogs croaking, lions roaring, and butterflies flying after class. We made paper plate tambourines another day. The children colored them all beautiful colors and decorated them with ribbons. I hope they will not drive the house parents crazy shaking their tambourines all the time. Ha.

Healing Touch: Many new patients have come to the clinic this month. Most of them have been referred from the plastic surgeon at the government hospital. My goal is to go and meet the plastic surgeon and sit in on his Tuesday clinic. It would be very helpful to develop a good relationship with him since he is referring most of the patients for pressure garments. I think it would also help me to meet more patients as well as follow existing patients to see their progress. I am now in the process of developing a poster for Healing Touch to help with awareness. I want to present it to the chairman of the district church councils and see if he will approve it to be sent out and posted on notice boards in the churches. It also can be posted in hospital and clinics. Awareness is still the key at this stage for increasing the development of the clinic.

Ibrahim (pictured above) is one of my burn patients who has been wearing his pressure garments for three months. His clothes caught on fire and he sustained burns on the back of his arms, one hand, his back and buttocks. When he came to Healing Touch, he had severe scars that had formed. Since wearing the garment for three months, his scars have reduced. I showed his mother the picture I took when Ibrahim first came and she was happy to see how the scars had reduced. He will continue to wear the garments for another eight months or until his skin is finished healing. Ibrahim's family is M*slim, so I look for opportunities to share about Christ when they come to the clinic. Pray that Ibrahim and his family would come to know Christ.

Praise:

- Many new patients who have come to the Healing Touch Clinic.
- A chance to spend some time with one of my Nigerian friends, as we canned tomatoes together.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that I can complete the Healing Touch poster and get it translated into Hausa to use for awareness in churches and hospitals.
- Pray for a good connection with the plastic surgeon and opportunities to attend his clinic.
- Pray for continued healing for Ibrahim and other burn patients that come to the clinic.
- Pray for peace in Nigeria and no more attacks from the Boko Haram.

Gay Lynn

