

January Update

Akwai Sanyi! (It's cold): This is the phrase I have heard the most this month. I am sure that most of you would not associate cold with Africa, but it has been in the 50's and 60's this month and we have been cold. The Nigerians are all bundled in coats, hats, gloves and multiple layers of clothes. I am sure that many of you do not think that the 50's and 60's is really cold, but you have heating in your house or a fireplace and lots of warm clothes. Here there is no heating in the house and since our windowpanes don't close well, we get a chilly breeze blowing through the house. I also only have a few sweaters and as much as I would like to wear pants, I have to wear skirts. Brrrr! I can't complain too much because soon the hot weather will come and it will last for the rest of the year. There will be times that I will wish for the cold weather to return.

Birthday Party: This month was my birthday and the response from people was great. I



got two phone calls with people singing happy birthday, one happy birthday text message, four birthday cards, four happy birthday e-mails, one present, a birthday cake and a birthday dinner. I was overwhelmed. Thanks to all of you who were a part of making my birthday a memorable day. I realized how encouraging it is for people to send birthday greetings so I have recorded my friend's birthdays on the calendar and I plan to send them a birthday greeting on their special day.

Pamper Yourself Party: Erin, another missionary here in Jos and I both have birthdays in January, so our friend Nicky decided to throw us a party. She came up with a very creative idea. She decided to have a pamper yourself party where we would all get manicures and pedicures. That is some definite pampering for us since our feet and hands need lots of help during this dry, dusty season. We each invited four guests and had a great time of food, fellowship, and pampering. I realized you learn a lot about people at one of these types of parties. You learn about others foot problems, who is ticklish, and who has sensitive or tough feet. We had several people that made faces or nearly jumped off the chair when they were scrubbing off the dead skin and others that you could scrub forever with no problem. You also learn who is conservative and just wants normal polish and the daring ones who let the ladies paint all different designs on their toenails or fingernails. I was daring and went for the design on the toenails and I have gotten lots of comments on how good they look. We all had a great time and plan to pamper ourselves like this more often.



A new leg for Andy: “Auntie, when will I get my leg?” was the question Andy asked me often. I had to tell him that Andrew, the missionary prosthetist, would bring it as soon as it was finished. Andy had his leg amputated about two years ago. He was hit by a car when he was little and the damage to his leg made it difficult for him to walk. Andrew lives about three hours from Jos and his ministry is making prosthetic legs for amputee patients. We are so blessed to have him in Nigeria. He came to Jos at the end of December and brought Andy his leg. We had a joyous celebration as Andy finally got his new leg that he has been waiting a year and a half to get. He has been wearing the leg several hours each day and is improving with his walking. He will continue with therapy and we look forward to the day when he no longer needs his crutches.



Reconciling the boys: I just want to bring this to your attention and ask for your prayers. We are at the beginning stages of trying to reconcile many of the boys back to their families. This was part of the plan for the ministry back when we started taking in boys, but we have just now started to focus on this task. Many of the boys have families that they can return to with some help from the ministry for school fees and some with other additional needs in their care. We feel that it is best for the boys to return to their families if possible. In the next week or two we have thirty-eight boys going back to their families and ten of those boys will be going to boarding school. The staff has had many discussions with the families and made arrangements for schooling. The staff will continue to go out and check up on the boys and see if there are any problems. This is the first group of boys being reconciled and several others are in the process. The boys have mixed feelings. Many of the boys are happy to go home, but there are others that it will be a little harder adjustment. Please pray for these boys as they transition back into their families and/or boarding school. Pray for wisdom for the staff as they continue to work out the details and follow up with the families. I will continue to update you more on this issue in the next couple of months.

Praise

- My good friend Mary has returned to Nigeria as a long-term missionary. She was here for two years before and now will be working with Gidan Bege in Kano, which is four hours north of Jos.
- Andy has his new leg and is improving with walking.

Prayer Request

- Pray for the boys who are being reconciled to their families. Pray for them during the initial adjustment and that they will do well back with their families.
- Pray for the staff as this process has taken lots of work and will need continued follow up. Pray also for the staff as it saddens us to see these boys go, but we know it is what is best for them.

- Pray for strength for the therapy department as we are still short staffed. We are supposed to get a new therapist in February.
- Pray for Andy as he is in therapy and learns to walk better with his new leg.
- Pray for peace in Kenya as there is a lot of fighting and many people are being killed.
- Pray for strength for me as I am stressed out from work at the hospital and the reconciliation process with the boys. Pray that I will be able to take a break soon and get some rest.

Gay Lynn