

July Update

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



Chinese Night



Tabari's House



Baby Delight

The Art of Chopsticks: On our compound we have missionaries from four different countries, so we are never short on laughs about cultural norms. We often say, “You call it what?”, “You eat that together”, or “You celebrate what event?” It is never a dull moment at our compound. We have one guy who is Chinese-Australian and decided to do a Chinese night for us. He made soup, sweet and sour chicken, BBQ pork, chicken and cashew, and beef stir-fry. We of course had rice and egg rolls. The challenge of the night was that we all had to eat with chopsticks. We got a short lesson for those who did not know how to use chopsticks. I did pretty well, but the rice for me was a challenge. I learned the trick is to put the bowl close to your mouth and more or less shovel the rice into your mouth. With determination, we all managed to empty our bowls.

Our next adventure was to use our chopsticks to pick up five objects of various sizes from one bowl and put them in another bowl without dropping them. We were timed to see who could do it the fastest. There were lots of laughs as people tried and tried to pick up the piece of paper or the water bottle cap. I actually came in second to my surprise though I did have indentions in my fingers by the end because I had squeezed the chopsticks so tight. So, as you can see, we are not just learning the Nigerian culture, we are learning about each other's culture as well.

A New Home: I have been praying for my good friend Tabari, as he has diligently pursued building his own house. Tabari is the assistant working in the Physical Therapy department. He



has completed the basic structure of the house and they have been so excited to move in. This was an occasion to celebrate. Nigerians love it when you come to their home to visit or celebrate a special occasion with them. I and Fiona, the Physical Therapist from England, went to have dinner and see their new home. As we drove down the road to their house, it was a bit like riding a roller coaster. It is a dirt road and the heavy rains have made big potholes and lots of mud to slosh through. Their house is very nice though they reported they still have some parts left to complete when they get more money. We had a nice chat and as we prepared to eat dinner, I noticed that the heater they had the food sitting on looked like a tire rim lying on its side with charcoal in the middle. It appeared to serve its purpose well and later we found out they put the heater in their bedroom to heat the room on cold nights. When we finished eating, the heater was set in the middle of the living room to keep us all warm since it was a bit chilly from the rain outside. Fiona and I decided this was the perfect set-up to roast marshmallows, so we will have to bring some along on our next visit.

Rejoicing and Mourning: This has been a tough month as we have had two deaths in our ministry. Kate, five year old daughter of one of the uncles in Gyero, our village care center, died rather quickly from cerebral malaria. In the village you bury the body that same day, so it was fast action to make a small coffin, get everyone together and go walking through the field to the burial spot. I was not there, so I only heard the news later in the evening. Pray for the Bawa family as they mourn the loss of their daughter.

Alex and Vicky are the leaders of Transition House, the care center in the city. We have been praying for them to have a baby for nine years. Finally our prayers were answered and Vicky was to give birth to the baby this month. I was at the hospital when Alex called to say they had arrived at the hospital. Vicky noticed that the baby was not moving like it usually did and she went to the hospital to see the doctor. The doctor reported some fetal distress and decided it was best to do a c-section. I went to the maternity ward and was rejoicing with Alex and his mother over the beautiful baby girl. After leaving to finish up some work, I returned only to be told that Vicky had died. I was shocked and grieved. I went to the OR waiting area and found the family wailing and crying. I did not think my tears would stop that day as I had lost my dear friend who I had laughed with, confided in, and rejoiced with over this long awaited baby. I don't understand why she was taken so soon, but I trust in God and know that His way is the right way. Pray for comfort for Alex and his family and for strength, as he is minus his wife to share in the raising of this new life.

A Positive Response: I am now in the process of going to hospitals and clinics doing awareness about the pressure garments for burn patients. I went to the government hospital this week to talk with the head of the Physical Therapy Department. He was very interested in the garments and wants to organize a seminar including the plastic surgeon and nurses along with the Physical Therapists. It was great to get a positive response and I look forward to meeting with all of them soon. I also have a presentation scheduled for next week with another hospital. Pray for me as I continue to make connections and lead awareness seminars.

Praise:

- An awesome, loving God I can cling to in times of heartache and struggle.
- Good connections with two hospitals and a positive response to the pressure garments.

- An answered prayer of a beautiful baby girl for Alex & Vicky.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for Alex as he is trying to find ways to deal with the pain of the loss of his wife.
- Pray for King's Kids camp August 14-20 for the kids in our care centers. Pray for strength and wisdom for the staff as we plan the camp on a tight budget and with a reduced number of staff than in previous years.
- Pray that the pressure garment seminar next week will go well and that many other seminars can be set up in other hospitals.
- Pray for continued peace in Jos and northern Nigerian.

I cannot say **Thank You** enough for all your prayers and support for the ministry here in Nigeria. You are a blessing!

Gay Lynn