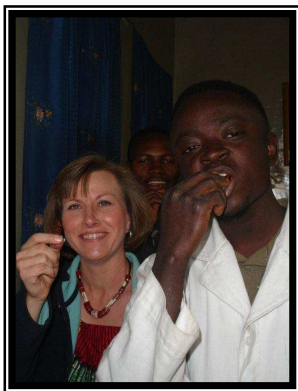


July Update

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

Nigerian Delicacies: Every country has its own unique foods that it considers a delicacy.



They vary from fish eggs to raw fat to various insects. I visited my friends in the x-ray department one day and they were eating grasshoppers (para). They said they were delicious and I needed to try some. It took a few days of convincing as I stared at the grasshopper's beady little eyes and long legs. But I finally decided to try one. It was not bad, but I would not call it delicious. It really did not have much taste to me. A few days later one of the men brought me some shinge (small flying termites) that his wife had cooked. You see them flying around during the beginning of rainy season and I had heard that Nigerians eat them. I decided to give them a try and I was

surprised that they really tasted good. They taste something like popcorn. They were all surprised that I ate them and said that I was a "real Nigerian". To rate the Nigerian delicacy on a scale of 1 to 5, I would have to give the grasshoppers a 1 and the shinge a 4.

Dressed to Identify: When you go to a wedding or special event in America, what you



wear is very important. You want something that is unique and looks good on you and you certainly would not want to show up wearing the same dress as another person. Well, in Nigeria it is a different story. You have matching outfits which designate whether you are associated with the bride, the groom, or with an organization that the bride or groom works with. You have the option of buying the material and having an outfit made for the wedding. One of our Nigerian leaders in the Gidan Bege ministry got married. So, to be culturally

appropriate, we bought the Gidan Bege Ministry fabric and all had outfits made (picture above). Therefore, at the wedding, because of our matching attire, everyone knew that we were the Gidan Bege Missionaries.

Gas Line: Oh no I am running low on gas again! This is not what you like to face in



Nigeria right now with gas shortages. It is a constant battle to find gas these days. If you are lucky enough to find a gas station that is selling, you will be waiting for several hours in a long line as you see in the picture. I stopped at one station to get gas thinking the line was not too long. . . I waited in line for over an hour only to hear that the gas was finished just as I was next to the pump. Ugh! You

have to start looking for gas long before you are getting to empty and hope that you find one with a short line or take a book and wait in the long line.

Burning the Midnight Oil: The electricity has been bad lately and we have no answers as to why. We were only getting about an hour a day at the beginning of the month, but have seen some improvement lately. I had to be creative with meals or go shopping often because there was not enough electricity to run the refrigerator. Now we are on a little more steady supply of electricity each day. We now have electricity from midnight to eight in the morning. I find myself up at midnight putting clothes in the washer or setting my alarm to get up at midnight to print something off the computer. I am glad that I am a night owl, but being up at midnight sure does not make me feel rested in the morning. The inconsistency of electricity is something we always have to deal with. I thank God that at least now we have it at night to keep the refrigerator cool and the battery system charged up.

Teams, Teams, Teams: We have had so many teams come out to work with our ministry this month. Many of them were here at the same time doing different projects and it was a little crazy at times, but we thank God for all of them and their interest in helping our ministry. We had some doing construction projects, several doing evangelistic outreaches and many ministering to the street boys and orphans. We are so thankful for all the educational supplies, sports equipment, and shoes that they brought for our care centers. We have two teams that will be coming in August to help with the camp for the boys in the care centers and one team of Physical Therapy students who will be working at Evangel Hospital. We pray that each of these teams will have great experiences while they are here and that their hearts will be changed by what they see God doing in Nigeria.

Praise:

- Many teams that came to help in our ministry.
- All the supplies the teams brought for the care centers.
- The many opportunities to share the gospel during the evangelistic outreaches.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for the camp for all the boys in our care centers on August 11-16. Pray that no one will be injured or get sick during the camp. Pray that those who don't know Christ will accept him as their Savior.
- Pray for the Physical Therapy team as they experience what therapy is like in a Nigerian hospital.
- Pray for strength for all our Gidan Bege staff as we have had many teams this month and are now preparing for camp with the boys.

Gay Lynn McCrady