

July Update

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

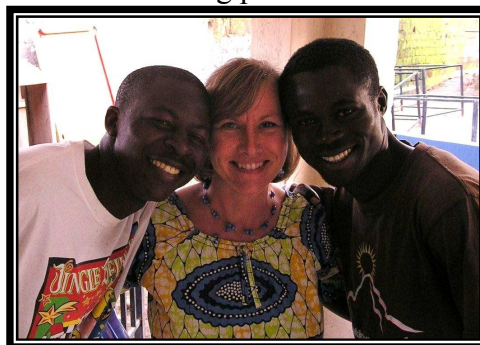
A New Phase In Life: We had eight boys in our ministry graduate from High School this year. I have spent the last five years talking with them about their joys and struggles,



praying together, and playing sports, or maybe I should say cheering them on as they play sports. These boys are really special to me. We had a graduation program at the care center to celebrate their completion of High School.

As we all found our seats to begin the program, the graduating boys all sat at the front of the room. We began by singing songs in Hausa and English. I love to watch the boys sing and dance with all their hearts, especially when they sing in Hausa. We had a time where the boys could ask the graduating boys questions. One of the questions was, "What challenges did you face in High School?" There were several different answers given by the boys. Their challenges were: obeying the teachers, being diligent in doing their work, not understanding some of the information taught and having to get help from other students, and not being prideful. The challenge that all of them gave was running from the girls. We all died laughing. I am not so sure that they were always running from the girls, but for the most part these boys have been good about not being focused on girls or spending time in the wrong places. Another question was, "How has the ministry helped you?" There were many answers, but the one that stood out was, "They showed me Christ." That gave me a lump in my throat. Sometimes the evidence that you are really making a difference in their lives comes in small glimpses. This was one of those glimpses.

We had a time of refreshments with minerals (soft drinks) and suya (beef on a stick). These are always a highlight at programs for the boys. Then it was a time of fellowship to talk with the boys and take pictures. We still had music playing and dancing going on. I stood back to take in a snapshot of the scene that will be a lasting memory in my mind. I felt like a mother who was proudly watching her child through the program, knowing he was now passing on to a new phase in life. I wrote a card to each of the boys and gave them the same charge that Paul gave Timothy. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12



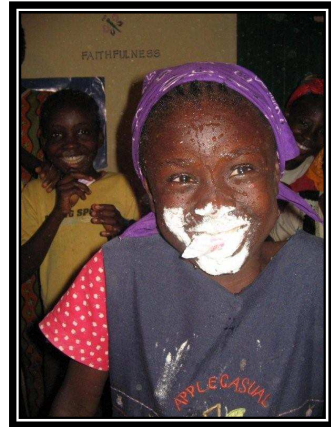
A Day with the Girls: I had an opportunity to go and spend time with the girls at the Gyero center. These opportunities don't come often, so I jump up and go any chance I can get.



We have three new girls making a total of thirty-four girls in the center now. There was a birthday party at the center for Nicky, one of the missionaries that works with the girls. We planned games, baked two cakes, and took drinks and candy. The girls were all excited and ran to greet us as we came into the compound. I gave a big hug to all the girls who ran and jumped all around me. If you want to feel loved, just go visit the Gyero girls. It was great to talk with them and

learn what new things they had been doing since the last time I visited.

We gathered all the girls in the courtyard to play a game, but our game was cut short as it began to rain. We ran for cover and all squeezed into the sitting room. The tight squeeze did not seem to phase them at all. We continued to play games, like pass the parcel and freeze when the music stops. The girls were all laughing and having a great time. We sang Happy Birthday to Aunty Nicky and then cut the cake. By this time the rain had stopped, so we went and hid the candy all over the compound and the girls had to go find it. I could have stayed and played with them for hours, but it was getting close to dark, so we packed up and headed home. The beautiful smiles and laughter of the girls will carry me until my next opportunity to visit.



Hoeing to Harvesting: Farming is a way of life for most Nigerians. Even if it is just a small piece of land, everyone is growing crops to help feed their family. The staff of the



King's Kids Ministry decided that the boys needed to learn how to farm. Also, the ministry is looking at ways to cut costs, so having the boys help grow some of their own food would be beneficial. I have spent time with the boys clearing the field next to Transition House and watching them hoe all the rows and plant the seeds. The boys in each of the three houses have a section of land to weed and take care of the crops. It has been great to watch the boys at work and see the crops grow.

Now that the rains have come, the crops have really shot up and it is time to harvest. I was looking at the corn one day and thought, "wow! I could get lost in the corn, it has grown so tall." I think we will be out harvesting beans for our next family group gathering. This is a great learning experience for the boys and a great way for them to help the ministry.



Changes Aboard: This has been a busy month at Evangel Hospital. The final decisions have been made that Evangel will be the teaching hospital for Bingham University. That is exciting on one hand, but on the other hand, it means there is a lot of work to do and changes to be made. The hospital is going through the accreditation process and having many meetings with the Bingham University Board. Student housing will have to be built and more teaching staff hired. The change will take time, so I will keep you updated as things progress.

Praise:

- I thank God for the eight boys who were able to complete High School.
- The great privilege to disciple and mentor the boys at Transition House and see how God is working in their hearts.
- A good yield of crops from our first round of farming at Transition House.
- The good relationships I am developing at the hospital.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the eight graduating boys as they leave the end of August to serve the ministry at one of the care centers in another city.
- Pray for the three new girls at the Gyero center. They have been heavily involved in the occult. Pray for them to be released from that bondage and that they would come to know Christ.
- Pray for another couple to come and work at the girl's center. With the growing number of girls we have, we really need more staff.
- Pray for the King's Kids camp August 17-22. Pray for the staff as we prepare for the camp and for the salvation of the kids who do not know Christ.
- Pray for Evangel Hospital as it goes through all the needed changes to be accredited as a teaching hospital.
- Pray that we will get another Nigerian Physical Therapist to work at the hospital.
- Pray for me as I continue to witness to one M family who is interested in knowing about Christ.

Gay Lynn McCrady