

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

June/July Update

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

A Prayer for Healing

I received a call one evening from Iyabo, my seamstress at the pressure garment clinic. She told me that she could not move her legs. She said she was walking with no problems in the morning, but by afternoon she could not move her legs. I was very concerned and told her she needed to go to the hospital because something was seriously wrong. She called me later to say she was admitted into the hospital. I went to visit her the next day and was shocked to hear that she was diagnosed with TB of the spine. She was immediately placed on drug treatment for Tuberculosis. It happened so suddenly that we were all stunned. We don't know where she caught it or for how long it was in her system. She must have developed a cold or some illness that weakened her immune system and the TB bacteria broke out and went to her spine. The blessing was that she started treatment immediately after the symptoms and she should recover well with time.



After recovering from the shock of the diagnosis, I then had to face the loss of my only seamstress at the clinic. How was the clinic going to function with no one to sew the garments? The very next week we had eight patients come to the clinic in five days. We were praying for more patients to come after the recent awareness events I had done and our prayers were answered. We were excited, but then overcome with concern as to how we would be able to provide the garments with Iyabo out sick. Our prayers were answered yet again. The seamstress that helped with training when the clinic first opened was able to come for a few hours each day and sew the garments. What a true blessing! I have hit many roadblocks since the idea for the clinic began, but God has always provided a way and we are still going strong.

Iyabo is slowly improving each week. She has gained strength back in her legs though her left leg is weaker than her right. I got her a walker and she is now able to stand and walk short distances. Pray for continued healing for Iyabo and that she will be able to return to the clinic soon.

Hope for the Hopeless

Many patients come to the clinic bearing their wounds and scars seeking healing from the effects of various types and degrees of burns. Many come with the financial means to pay for garments and treatment, but others are poor and cannot afford to pay even the reduced price we charge for our garments. My desire is to be able to provide pressure garments for everyone who comes to the clinic whether they can pay or not.

Dorcas came to the clinic one day referred to us by one of her friends. She had been burned by a generator that exploded near her. Her left arm and both ankles had healed well with only minor scarring, but when she showed me her right arm, I was shocked to see that it had not healed at all. She told me she was treated in the hospital, but then had to leave because she had no more money for treatment. Here was this teenage girl unable to go to school or help much with household activities because of a huge burn on her right arm that would never heal without treatment. We made her pressure garments for her left arm and both ankles and then I made an appointment with the plastic surgeon for him to evaluate her right arm. I am paying for the dressing changes for her each week and the doctor is making preparations for her to have a skin graft in the next few weeks. Pray for a successful skin grafting on her right arm and that she will heal quickly and be able to return to school. Pray that the clinic can be a place of hope for those who are hopeless financially to afford treatment and those who feel hopeless in healing from their scars.

Connecticut Team

We had a team from Connecticut come to work with City Ministries this month. They were a wonderful group and came to do a variety of activities during their time here. They worked on



some special projects with construction and painting of rooms at our Boy's Transition House. One lady did training for the house parents on trauma healing and play therapy to educate them better on how to manage and help the many children who have come from backgrounds of trauma and abuse. Three of the team members were involved in planning a weekend retreat for the leaders of our children's care centers. Various topics were discussed such as stewardship, trauma healing,

health and self-sustainability. There were small group times for the staff to discuss problem areas and share ideas together. The staff really enjoyed the time of learning and sharing. One team member did strategic planning training with several of the administrative staff and this will greatly help the ministry grow and function at a better level.

The team was full of encouragement and did a wonderful job of training and showing appreciation to our staff for all the time and effort they put forth to care for these difficult children in the ministry. The team came to do special projects and provide training and appreciation for the staff, but I don't think they even realized what a blessing just their presence was to the missionaries they worked alongside. I had so much fun spending time with them the first few days they arrived. I don't think I have laughed that much in months. It lifted my spirits and I was so much happier the next week. Of course, the chocolate they brought helped to lift my spirits as well!

Praise:

1. An early diagnosis of TB for Iyabo before severe damage was done to her spine.
2. The blessing of having the Connecticut team who trained and encouraged our Nigerian staff.
3. Praise God for the many dedicated people who support me and the ministry through prayer and donations.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for healing for Iyabo and her ability to return to work.
2. Pray for a successful skin grafting surgery for Dorcas.
3. Pray that our City Ministries staff will take to heart and apply what they learned from the training sessions taught by the Connecticut team.
4. Pray for vocational training opportunities for four of our teenage girls at the Girl's TH.
5. Pray for more opportunities to increase awareness for the Healing Touch Clinic.

Gay Lynn