

June Update

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. | Isaiah 40:31

And the Ground Turned White: The rain started in May this year, but it was only a



few showers. Usually the beginning of June brings heavier and more frequent rain. I waited for the cool breeze and the sound of raindrops on the tin roof, but to my surprise when the rain came it was hard pounding on the roof. I ran out onto the balcony to look and among the heavy stream of rain was hail that I could hardly see through. It was pea size hail and it came down hard for about twenty minutes. The pounding was so loud on the tin roof that I had to cover my ears. I looked at the ground and it was no longer green, but had turned white from all the hail that had fallen.

Several of us were standing on the balcony watching the rain and hail. We heard a cracking sound and as we looked towards the parking lot, we saw the plastic roof that extends over the print shop door being demolished by the hail. When the hail and rain had stopped, there was nothing left of the roof. It was not just the roof that had suffered damage; many of the plants in my garden had been pelted by the hail and had big holes in their leaves. I thought this was just a one-time event, but the next time it rained we had hail again only not near as hard. Now the hail has gone and we are just getting the normal rainy season rains, which make everything green and beautiful.



Seven months, Three Weeks, and Four Days: You may be asking if this is a

countdown to when I will return to the USA. Well, that is a good guess, but it actually is



the amount of time it has taken to complete the playground at Evangel Hospital so far. I find that through every challenge God is trying to teach me something. Well, God has definitely been teaching me patience through the building of the playground.

Our Bible study group was studying Matthew 5:38-45. The question was “Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.” Is that going to get us anywhere? I started to think about this as all the chaos with the carpenter and

welder was happening. I had waited and waited for them to complete their work for the playground and then one day I waited all day for them to show up to begin building only for them to come with their supplies at five o’clock and say they would return tomorrow to start building. I realized that I could get angry, say some words I would later regret or deduct some pay for every day there was no progress. But would that really get me

anywhere. I don't think so. I was frustrated of course and I did make sure they showed up the next day to start building, but I decided that they were not going to suck the joy out of me. I was excited about this playground and what it would mean to the children and no one was going to take that away.

The carpenter and welder have now finished their work and most everything has been installed. There are just the last few touches left before it will be opened. I see the bright eyes of the children as they gaze at the playground and wonder when they can go in and play. I hear the comments of the parents, "Good job, well done, I will bring my child here to play." The process may have been frustrating, but the smiling faces of the kids that will come and play make it all worth it.

A Few Urgent Needs: I praise God that the projects I have started are all making progress though it seems that they are coming to completion near the end of my term along with the funds. You have all been so gracious in giving to help the ministry and I am so thankful. I thank God everyday for all my supporters who pray for me and give financially. I would like to inform you of some urgent needs in the ministry and ask for your support through prayer and/or giving.

1. There are two playgrounds I am working on at the hospital. The outdoor playground is almost finished, but needs a few minor things for it to be completed and ready to open. We need to paint the equipment, and finish putting up the fence that surrounds the playground. The play area outside the children's outpatient clinic still needs a fence around it and some small pieces of equipment.
2. The funds are very low in the hospital account for medical treatment of our boys and girls in the ministry. I am the only medical person in the ministry here until the other missionaries return in August so I am managing the medical account along with my own hospital account that helps cover some of the medical expenses for poor patients.
3. Camp for the boys and girls in the King's Kids ministry is August 17-21. We will have about one hundred and forty kids in the junior camp this year. We need funds for food, transportation for the kids from our outside centers, and craft materials.

If you are interested in making a donation to my ministry account for any of the above needs, you can send your donation to the SIM office. The SIM USA address is:

SIM USA
Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241

Praise:

- Thirteen of our boys from Transition House were baptized the last Sunday in June.
- Installation of all the equipment for the hospital playground.
- The crops have done well on the farm at Transition House and the farm outside of the city. The boys are really learning and working hard at farming.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for funds to help take care of the urgent needs in the ministry.
- Continue to pray for another Physical Therapist at the hospital.
- Pray for the eight boys from Transition House who have just finished High School. Pray for them as they move out on their own, start work and/or prepare for university.
- Pray for the opportunity to meet with a nutritionist at the government hospital to discuss nutritional supplements to help in the healing of burn patients.
- Pray for the King's Kids staff as we prepare for camp August 17-21 for all our kids in the ministry.

Gay Lynn McCrady