

March Update

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. 2 Corinthians 2:14



Burn patient



Mallam Jauro drama



Gym and the staff



A good time with friends

A Visitor from Niger: I had a wonderful treat this month of meeting Deborah, an SIM missionary who is also working as an Occupational Therapist. She is working at Galmi Hospital in Niger, which is the country right above Nigeria. She traveled down with a team from the hospital and was very interested to see what was happening with our therapy department at Evangel Hospital, as well as researching the availability of prosthetics and wheelchairs. We got to spend two days together touring the hospital and the Beautiful Gate ministry, which makes wheelchairs and prosthetics.

It was great to spend time talking together about the different patients we treat and the differences in medical care and types of patients between the two countries. We also shared what techniques we have found effective and compared the types of supplies available or not available in our two countries. It is always a humbling experience when you get together with a person working in another country. Just as you think your situation is bad, you find that at least some of theirs is worse. Deborah is the only therapist right now and she is building the therapy department from scratch. She is training one assistant and is looking at equipment needs in the department. She was very excited to see the Beautiful Gate ministry and observe how they are making wheelchairs and prosthetics with local materials. She talked with the owner about possibly sending down some workers from Niger for two to three months who could work alongside his men and be trained to make these items. Pray for strength and wisdom for Deborah as she builds up the therapy department in Niger. We will definitely be emailing and keeping up with what is happening in each other's ministry. We even talked about me going to visit her in Niger. I would love that, but I think it depends on if I could stand the heat. I am not joking. It is the desert and it is hot in Niger!

A Long Journey to Worship: Our journey to church now takes thirty to forty minutes whereas before it took us ten to fifteen minutes. This is because the police set up road blocks and check points all over the city on Sunday mornings for increased security. It is a bit of a hassle, but I am

happy that they are really trying to heighten security as best they can to prevent any more attacks. There were four announcements made in the church this month. 1. Women are not allowed to carry purses or bags into the church. 2. You cannot park your car by the church, but need to park further down the road. 3. Your car will be stopped at the gate and the trunk will be checked. 4. If there is an explosion, do not run outside the church as there could be a secondary explosion. These have become the norms that we live by. Sometimes it is overwhelming, but what has been an encouragement to me is to see all the people that still come to church. No threats have stopped them from coming to worship on Sunday. We all stand strong knowing God is our protector and strength in times of need.

A Chance to be a Movie Star: There are always new and exciting adventures in Nigeria even in the midst of unrest. My friend Mallam Jauro ministers to the Fulani people through music, dance and drama. He has recorded many songs along with music videos. He goes out on crusades with two pastors and ministers to the Fulani through music and preaching. This time he wanted to do a short drama before one of his songs. The drama was about missionaries coming to minister to a village and arriving in the middle of a child sacrifice ceremony. They approach the villagers and cry out for them to stop the sacrifice. They then tell them about the love of Jesus and how he has already made the sacrifice for them and that there is no need to sacrifice this child. They pray for the villagers and they accept Christ.

I asked several people to come and be one of the missionaries together with me for the drama and two of my friends agreed. So, off we went one afternoon for filming. We knew our lines, but that was about the extent of it. But that is no problem because in Nigeria you just learn and do as you go. We went scene by scene and got our instructions and acted out what we were supposed to do. It took about four hours to get all the scenes filmed for a drama that in the end will probably last five to ten minutes. So, we had our one afternoon of fame. Hey, in Nigeria that is about as close as you can get to being a movie star. If the video comes out well, I might give you a peek later.

A Quest for Unity: A focus of our ministry these days is finding ways to build unity between the two religions. One of our missionary couples has a ministry called Building Reconciliation in City Center (BRiCC). They have two centers that are located on the dividing line of the M*slim area and the Christian Area. They promote programs, seminars, and meetings that involve M*slims and Christians working together to reach out to the community. There is one M*slim man who has retired from coaching the Nigerian national team in cycling and gymnastics. He has opened a gym that helps people who have injuries of various kinds such as stroke, head injury, sports injuries, back pain and many more. BRiCC has been involved in building a relationship with him and helping in his work. Fiona, my Physiotherapy colleague has been going to the gym once a week to help treat patients and help the owner understand how to help in the continued rehabilitation of the patients that come. I traveled with her one week to see what was happening at the gym and to do awareness about the burn garments. The owner was very friendly and really excited to have us come and help the patients. He was happy to put up my burn garment poster and send burn patients to Healing Touch for treatment. It was great to see how M*slims and Christians can work together to help people in the community.

Happy Easter!!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

I Peter 1: 3-5

Praise:

- A great time of fellowship with Deborah.
- Relative peace in Jos for the past three weeks.
- A fun time working together with Mallam Jauro on his drama.
- Increased number of burn patients coming for pressure garments and many patients reporting reduction in their scars.
- Healing Touch posters printed in English and Hausa.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for continued peace in Jos and Northern Nigeria.
- Pray for Deborah and her work to set up the therapy department at Galmi Hospital, Niger
- Pray for me as I travel around distributing Healing Touch posters and doing more awareness about the burn garments.
- Pray that I can complete the translation of the Healing Touch brochure in Hausa and get it printed.
- Pray for BRiCC and other ministries, as they work on reconciliation and strive to help M*slims and Christians work together to reach out to the community.
- Pray that many lives would be touched and people would come to know Christ during the Easter holiday.

Gay Lynn