

# March Update

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19



Challenge girls-me, Angie, Amy, Alexis



Challenge compound hiking trip



Albarka's 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday

The Challenges/Joys of Challenge: This is my first full month in my new job as Challenge compound manager. It was not long before the voices were heard proclaiming the normal troubles that can occur, “My toilet is leaking”, “We have run out of water”, “The water pump is not working.” Oh the challenges of being compound manager. But it was only a little time and a few phone calls before all the problems were solved. We are all good to go for now until the next problem arises-not too soon I hope! But there have been some joys as well. One short-termer named Amy came for two months to work with our children in City Ministries. You would think that was a bit too short a time to do much, but she was a great help. She worked at the school in Gyero, our village care center. She was a blessing, as we had many teachers who became ill or had to be out and she was able to cover their class for that short time. She also was willing to give swimming lessons to many of our missionary kids. It is a joy to see how God uses the gifts and talents of each person for the time that they are here in Nigeria. Also this month I prepared an apartment for a new long-term missionary named Alexis. She is a doctor and is coming to provide medical care for our children in the City Ministries care centers. We are excited to have her with us in the ministry and at Challenge compound.

Paint Mixing: I am preparing to move into a new larger apartment that is downstairs from where I am living now. I am painting and doing some small repairs before I move in. I sure wish we had a Home Depot here where I could pick the color I wanted and then the machine would mix it and I would walk away with my gallon or two of paint. I know it is not always easy to pick a color from those paper strips with the paint colors on them, but I wish I had a video of me going

to the paint mixer to get the different colors to paint my apartment. I looked at the paint colors in other people's houses and then at objects in my house to decide on the right color. I took off



with a friend to the paint mixer loaded with a bucket that is the color grey I wanted, inside the bucket is a candle the color beige I wanted, a piece of material the color red I wanted, a picture with the color green I wanted and the rug and bedspread with the colors I wanted for the bedrooms. I think I must have been a funny sight to see. We sat on a chair outside the paint mixers small shop for three hours trying to mix all the right colors. He would mix one color and it would be too dark so he would add more white or it had a red tint and he would add yellow or he would add green or black to change the shade of the color to more what I wanted. The paint mixer

and I were both worn out by the time we finished. Ha! I wish I could say that it ended there, but I had to go back another time to lighten or slightly change two colors. By the time we got to painting the last few rooms, the painter and I were lightening the colors ourselves. It has been an experience I will never forget. Now comes the moving process! The preparations have been a bit challenging, but I am excited to move into my new apartment.

Baby Blessings: This month was full of fun experiences with my friends and their babies. We celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday of my good friend's baby this month. He had a big cake shaped like the number one. He was more interested in the cake than smiling for his birthday photo. Ha! *(picture above)* He is just starting to walk on his own and I got him a push toy he can hold on to and push around the house. Next I will be chasing him around the house or we will be looking for him as he sneaks off on his two feet!

It was a great time of celebration this month as we had a baby shower for one of the missionary couples working here in Nigeria. They have not been able to have a child of their own and have been looking into adoption. They thought they would be returning to England to pursue adoption there, but God has blessed them with a Nigerian baby. They are so happy and I am happy for them. I am also happy that they will not have to leave us and return to England. We are all praying for them as they work through the adoption process here in Nigeria which can be a long journey.

### Praise:

- Praise for Alexis coming to Nigeria and for her ministry to our City Ministries children as a doctor.
- Praise for the blessing of a child for my missionary friends.
- Praise that the painting of my new house is finished and ready for me to move in this coming week.
- Praise for God's protection and peace over Jos.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for me as I try to balance this new job as compound manager along with my other ministry commitments.
- Pray for me as I go and do awareness about the pressure garments at two hospitals this month.
- We have three of our teenage girls doing apprenticeships and now we are looking for an apprenticeship for one more of our girls. Pray we can find the right placement for her.
- Pray for the City Ministries Health Team as we meet to write policies and look at ways to improve the medical care, diet and hygiene of the children in our care centers.
- Pray for peace in Nigeria, as we still hear of attacks in the Northern and Eastern states of Nigeria.
- Pray for my best friend Nicky as she travels home to the UK this week to visit her dad who is ill. Pray for a safe journey, a good time with her family and that she can return to Nigeria rested.

Many thanks to all of you for your prayers and support of me and the many ministries here in Nigeria.

Gay Lynn