



Weekend Retreat with the Girls

A team from England came out to Nigeria for two weeks to spend time with the kids and help do some maintenance projects at one of the care centers. One of the activities planned was a weekend retreat with the teenage girls. My first thought was Oh no, a weekend slumber party with twenty eight teenage girls! But in the end, we all had a great time and I got to know many of the girls that I did not know very well. The theme for the



weekend was prayer. There were many activities that focused on how to pray to God, how to pray for forgiveness for yourself and others who have hurt you, and how to pray for your community. There were opportunities for one-on-one prayer, if any of the girls wanted someone to pray for them about a specific issue.

One afternoon we went on a prayer walk at a prayer center built by one of our SIM missionaries. We broke up into small groups and took time to stop along the way and pray about specific items or anything the girls felt led to pray about from what they had learned

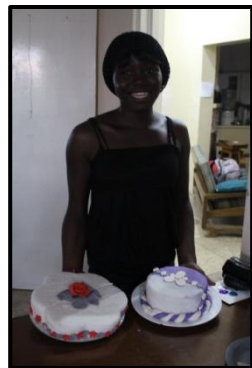
that day. We also took time to look out at the beautiful views and the communities we could see around us. Then we prayed for the needs of these communities and for salvation for those who did not know Christ. We stopped at the top for a picnic lunch and some rest. By the time we got back to our vehicles, we had all changed the name to a prayer hike rather than a prayer walk! We were all tired and most of the girls came back and crashed on their beds.



There were lots of fun evening activities after dinner each night. We had a movie and popcorn night in which the girls loved staying up

late. We would have watched two movies if we let them have their way. Ha! The next night was a dance night. Oh, were they excited. There is nothing Nigerians love more than dancing.

One of our girls is in a vocational training program learning baking. She baked and decorated two cakes for dessert one night. The cakes were beautifully decorated and tasted very good. There are two other girls in vocational training programs and are doing well. Pray we can find placements for other girls who need skills training.



The last session of the retreat focused on teaching the girls the four steps of prayer-adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and

supplication. At the end of the program, we had the girls stand in a circle and the leaders walked around and prayed for the girls. So many of these girls come from difficult backgrounds and have suffered trauma of various kinds. Pray for healing for all of these girls and that they would find a new and rewarding life in Jesus Christ and hope for a bright future.



Goodbyes and Hellos



This is the craziness that goes on at my compound. There is never a dull moment. This is a picture of our Tuesday night Bible study group that meets on my compound. Sadly, this was the final meeting and we were saying goodbye to several of the missionaries who will be returning to their home countries. It is always hard to say goodbye knowing you might not see that person again.

One of the short-term missionaries that has been here for two years is leaving us. We have been so blessed to have her. She always had her door open and many activities happened in her apartment. She will be returning to the USA to further her education in global health. Another short-termer has traveled for a few weeks, so there will be a very small group on the compound for the summer. But the summer months will not be slow for me because I

will be preparing all the apartments for new short-term missionaries that will be coming in August and September. We may be a small group right now, but come September we will be full up with four to five new people. So, there will be lots of Hellos in order for all of them. Pray for me as I work to get all the apartments set-up and make preparations to orient the new missionaries and help them settle into their new place.

Praise:

- The team from England coming and having a great time working with the kids.
- A wonderful time of fun and teaching at the weekend retreat for the teenage girls.
- Three rooms painted on the girl's compound by the England team.
- Safety and protection from the bomb blasts in Jos.
- Several new short-term missionaries coming in the next few months.
- Several new opportunities to do awareness about the Healing Touch Pressure Garment Clinic.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for me as I get all the apartments set-up for the new missionaries.
- Pray for peace in Jos. Pray for the many people who were injured in the bomb blast and for those who lost loved ones.
- Pray for Alheri, one of our teenage girls who is having abdominal pain. Pray the doctors can figure out the cause.
- Pray for the continued growth of the Healing Touch Clinic.
- Pray for the leaders of the girl's ministry as we educate, train and disciple the girls and prepare them for a better future.

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