



## Taking Up The Slack

This is the time of year for the mass exodus when families leave for summer vacation and many others go for home assignment. We are really small this summer with only two families, three couples and five singles. Though we may be small in number, we are standing strong to take up the slack and continue the work while the others are away. My friend Nicky, head of the Girls' TH, is away on home assignment until September, so I am managing the center until she returns. So, all the issues that arise such as: gas cooker not working, need more notebooks and pens, one girl needs a new skirt for school, one of the girls needs medical treatment...all get directed to me. It is definitely not going to be dull this summer!



We are excited that Faith has completed her sewing program. She received her sewing machine upon graduation and we are now preparing for her to return to her area to live with her pastor's family. She plans to open a small shop and work as a tailor to help support herself.

I am already preparing for the activities that will begin in June. Our four vocational girls at the center will be starting knitting/crocheting and baking classes one day a week and another girl will be receiving training in cake decorating and catering. Our goal is for each of the girls to learn skills that will help support them in life when they leave the center. We have apprenticeships set up for salon, sewing, and now cake decorating and we hope to expand and have opportunities for apprenticeships in other areas. It costs approximately four hundred to five hundred dollars for a six to eight month apprenticeship depending on which skill they are learning. If you would like to donate money to help train one of our girls, contact me at [gaylynn.mccrary@sim.org](mailto:gaylynn.mccrary@sim.org) to get all the details.

All of our girls are learning farming. Every family in Nigeria has a farm to grow food that will help feed the family and/or provide income by selling the produce. We want the girls to know how to farm as well as work to grow food that will help supplement the food the ministry provides. The rains have started so it is time to begin planting. The girls planted two kinds of corn, spinach, two kinds of beans, and okra. We pray that we get a good crop so there will be a variety of vegetables for them to eat.

There are many activities that are happening and I pray that God will give me strength and wisdom as I manage the Girls' TH these next few months. Continue to pray for us as we are still raising funds and looking for land to develop a larger center for the girls. I want to say thank you to all of you who pray and support this ministry. You have helped change the lives of all these girls and given them hope for a better future.



## When Things Fall Apart

Nigeria has struggled these past few months with devaluation of the Naira, fuel crisis, government workers' strike due to salaries not paid, water shortage and inconsistent electricity. The electricity has been so bad the last few months and twice in the month of May we were without electricity for a whole



week. So you might wonder how did I survive a whole week without me introduce you to my new best friend Mr. Generator. The generator helped to keep my food cold in the refrigerator, run the fan when I was sweating from the heat and power the water pump, so we could have water in our tanks on the compound. I am happy to say that this week we have had more consistent electricity. But if we happen to experience another few days or a week with no electricity, I can count on my generator to see me through.

We were happy to have peaceful elections in April, but we have been in a holding pattern since then waiting for the new government to be sworn in, which occurred on May 29, before any of the above mentioned issues would be addressed. Please pray for the new government as it addresses the many needed issues and works to bring stability to the country. We made it through the three E's: Ebola, Extremists, and Elections and now we are facing the next E: Economy. God carried us through the first three E's and I know he will carry us through this one as well. One of my favorite sayings is "When you are down to nothing, God is up to something." I am ready and waiting to see what that "Something" is going to be.

## Look Who Has Arrived



One of the new roles I took on last year was manager of my compound. Aside from managing the staff and maintenance of the compound, I am responsible for preparing the apartments for new short-term missionaries arriving and orienting them to the compound. I want you to meet Julia Montany. Julia is from Missouri and graduated with a degree in Psychology. She worked in an orphanage for five months in South Africa. She has been raising support to come to Nigeria for the past eight months. She will be working in Nigeria for one year and we are so excited to have her here. She will be working with our home schooled missionary kids for the summer helping with assignments and activities. In August she will be joining the City Ministries team working with the children in our care centers. We have already had some good laughs together so I know we are going to have a year full of fun. Pray for Julia as she transitions to life in Nigeria and starts her ministry.

**Praise:**

- Peaceful elections
- A good holiday in April with much needed rest and fun times with family and friends.
- Faith graduating from her sewing apprenticeship.
- Arrival of Julia to join the City ministry team and help with our children's ministry

**Prayer Request:**

- Pray for Faith as she travels back to her village and works as a tailor.
- Pray for strength and wisdom as I lead the Girl's TH center while Nicky is away.
- Pray for the new government and for stability of the country.
- Pray for new opportunities to do awareness for the pressure garment clinic and that more patients will come for treatment.
- Pray for other apprenticeship opportunities to open up for our girls so they can receive training in various careers.
- Pray for SIM Nigeria as they work to get renewal of our missionary quota positions so we can remain in Nigeria.

*Gay Lynn McCrady*

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