

# May Update

*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:3-4*

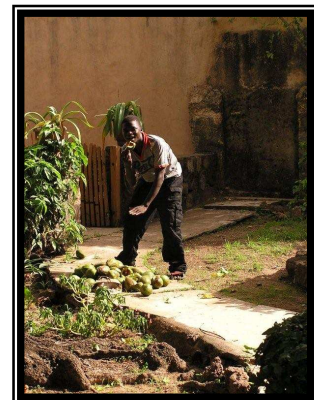
**Spring Cleaning:** Now the rains have come and settled the dust, so it is time to sweep up and wash away the last remnants of the dry season. I took down all my curtains to wash and the whole backsides were brown from all the dust blowing in the windows. I also washed my bedspread noticing that it was not near as brightly colored as I remembered. I even took a washcloth and wiped down parts of the wall as I could see a layer of brown dust that had settled on the walls. Now everything is nice and clean and hopefully will remain that way for the next few months.



This is also the time of year that I spruce up my garden. Now that the rains have come and some of the flowers are coming up, it is a good time to add new flowers and transplant some that have multiplied since last year. Yesterday was a warm sunny day with a light breeze; perfect weather for working in the garden. I bought some new pots and transplanted geraniums, marigolds, and impatiens. I added some hibiscus to give some color around the other bushes. Of course the rains make the grass grow tall and all the weeds to come out, so the gardener and I will have lots of work to do to keep everything under control. I look forward to seeing all the beautiful flowers this year.

**Spaghetti and Socks:** My family group from Transition House came to my house for the monthly outing. There were eleven boys and two staff. The boys said that they wanted to eat spaghetti, so I had spent the morning making all the food. Many of the boys had never been to my house and they were excited to come and visit. We had a good time of praise and worship before eating. While the boys were eating, I heard many of them laughing. When I asked them what was so funny, one of the boys said that several of the boys were calling the food spaghetti and socks. After listening, I realized that many of them could not pronounce sauce, so when they said sauce it sounded like socks. We all had a good laugh!

The highlight of the outing for the boys was picking avocados from the tree. There is a big avocado tree in my compound and the boys were talking about getting avocados even before they came. The gardener was working that day, so he and one of the boys climbed up the tree to pick the avocados and then dropped them down for the boys to catch. We had a few crashes, but most of them made it down intact. We counted all of them at the end and there were seventy-five avocados. Each boy and each leader got four avocados long with the gardener and the rest were left to disperse among the missionaries



on the compound. It was a fun afternoon of eating, picking avocados and playing games. They will have to guard their avocados well when they get back to Transition House and the other boys see their load. Ha.

Mass Exodus: The school year is over and so the end of May is the yearly mass exodus of missionary families. Some are going on home assignment for six months to one year and others are going for a two-month holiday before they return for the next school year. It feels a bit lonely for the rest of us who remain here through the summer. But the summer is the busy time as we have many teams that come to work with the children or do various building projects. For the next two months I will be the only missionary medical person for the Gidan Bege Ministry. We pray that there will not be any major medical problems. We also have another missionary who has to unexpectedly leave due to some medical issues. We pray that she can return home for some medical treatment and then will be able to join us again at the end of the summer.

Praise:

- Rains that have come to dispel the dust and bring cooler weather.
- Continued good financial support even during the economic crisis.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for the eight boys that we have graduating from our ministry this year. Pray as they make decisions on learning a trade or going to university. Pray for those who will now be living on their own and learning how to support themselves. Pray for the staff in the ministry as we help them start out on their new phase of life.
- Pray for Jayne, missionary working in our ministry, as she travels home to receive medical treatment.
- Pray for us as we continue to implement the new procedures at the hospital for burn care. The missionary surgeon has left for home assignment, so I will be overseeing this project alone. Pray for a good response from the doctors and nurses.
- Continue to pray that we can get another Nigerian Physical Therapist for the hospital.

Gay Lynn McCrady