

November Update

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.”

Psalm 100: 4-5



Computer class



Nigerian group at the burn conference



Thanksgiving Dinner



Experienced Tailor

Burn Conference in Ghana: I traveled to Ghana on November 3 for the Pan African Burn Society Conference. My friend, who works in Niger as an Occupational Therapist, attended the conference as well. There were plastic surgeons, nurses and a few therapists that came from eight different African countries. The speakers were from the USA, UK, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The Pan African Burn Society is working to help improve burn care in third world countries. I learned a lot during the conference and made connections with many important people who are working all over Africa to train and promote development of better care for burn patients. The biggest surprise I had was seeing about ten Nigerians at the conference and finding out that they are working in burn centers in Nigeria. I have searched for over a year to find burn care centers in Nigeria and to find out if they are making pressure garments. I realized I had been looking in the wrong places. The burn centers are in the South and Southwestern regions of Nigeria. I was excited to find out that two hospitals are making pressure garments and I plan to visit them in January. I want to see what type of pressure garments they are making and how they are getting their supplies. I want to begin networking with these hospitals and work towards improving burn care in the Middle belt region of Nigeria.

Computer Class at the Girl's TH: We received a donation of three refurbished computers for our Girl's Transition House. The girls were really excited and looked forward to computer classes. We started a class with our five vocational training girls. We will do classes with our five high school girls when they are on break from school. I never thought I would be teaching computer classes but I decided to take the challenge. I am teaching alongside one of our Nigerian staff that has taught computer classes at our other care centers. We started with a brief history of computers before learning the parts of the computer. We got our first big laugh the second class when we were reviewing from the previous lesson. We asked, “Who is the father of

computers?” One of the girls yelled, “Baba Computer.” We still get a good laugh out of that one up to today. After the first few classes, I realized I did not need to be an experienced computer technician to teach these classes. I just needed a heart to love on these girls and spend time interacting with them. It has been a great time full of laughs and big smiles as they learn how to do new things on the computer. Three of our vocational training girls are learning disabled and are functioning on an Elementary School age level. We are teaching them at a slow pace and doing a lot of repetition. They have progressed well and are really trying hard. We hope to use the computers as another learning tool for them to advance in language and math skills. These girls have also experienced severe trauma and one of them was not even speaking when she came to the center a year ago. I have noticed they are interacting more and really enjoying the computers.

An Unexpected Blessing: In my search for plastic surgeons involved in burn care, I found one in the Northern region who was making pressure garments. But even better than that, I got the phone number of the tailor who was sewing the pressure garments. It was the best connection I have made so far. I had a long conversation with him and he agreed to come and visit the clinic. He lives about two hours away. We had three patients come and he was able to demonstrate how he measures the patient, cuts the garment and then sews it. He was very helpful in teaching my tailor better skills to make the garments fit perfectly. We had some good discussions on what supplies are available in Nigeria and how he is pricing his garments. He also agreed to come and train other tailors when I have a training class set up. What an unexpected blessing it was to find him.

Thanksgiving on the Deck: While most of you were sitting inside by the fire eating your turkey with all the trimmings, I was enjoying a warm evening on the deck eating chicken with all the trimmings. Turkey is really expensive and tends to be a bit tough here so we chose to eat chicken for our Thanksgiving meal. Our group was not just Americans, but we had some from New Zealand, Lebanon and Nigeria. We got to introduce them to an American Thanksgiving with most of the same kinds of food we eat in America. It was a great time to thank God for the many blessings we had seen throughout the year. To add a little spice to the dinner, we all had a hand print turkey with our name on it that was taped to the back of our chair. We had a great time taking photos with the turkeys on our shoulder, on our forehead or as a nice hair decoration. It was a fun evening of food and fellowship. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends as well.



Praise:

- The blessing of finding an experienced tailor who can teach other tailors how to make pressure garments.
- The donation of three computers for the Girl's Transition House.
- Making connections with several Nigerians who are involved in burn care.
- Finding two hospitals that are making pressure garments.
- A great time of learning and interacting with new people at the burn conference in Ghana.

Prayer Request:

- Pray that the five vocational training girls will continue to improve in their language and math skills.
- Pray for patience for me and my Nigerian colleague as we try to teach the girls computer skills at a level they can understand.
- Pray for good interactions with the two hospitals down South who are making pressure garments.
- Pray for one of the widows in our sewing program. Her family home was attacked and set on fire. She escaped with only minor burns to both hands, but several of her family members died.
- Pray for new teachers to fill the many open positions at the International School.
- Pray for peace as there continues to be random attacks in Northern Nigeria.
- Pray for the financial needs of City Ministries as we feed, clothe, and educate three hundred street children and orphans.

Thank you for all the prayers and financial support you have given this year.
May you have a Merry Christmas and God's blessings for 2014.

Gay Lynn