

# November Update 2008

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

| Chronicles 16:8-12

Showered with Money: Uncle Musa, one of the leaders at the Gyero Care Center, was married this month. Many missionaries and the Gyero boys in his family group attended the wedding. Most weddings are an all day affair and this one was no exception. The wedding was to begin at 10:00, but did not actually start until 11:30. We wondered if we were at the right place when we showed up and the church was empty. Typical of most Nigerian events...they don't start on time! The singing during the ceremony was great. There were several choirs singing special numbers and our boys from Gyero sang a song as well. After the ceremony, all the Gidan Bege staff were escorted to one room and were given food and drinks. It was a blessing because we needed energy for the reception.



We were highly welcomed at the reception, as everyone loves when white people attend weddings. We were seated at the “High Table” and even asked to judge the dancing of the bride and groom’s parents. Of course that meant that we were up there dancing also. The custom at weddings is to “shower money” on the bride and groom any time they are dancing during the wedding. So, as we were dancing, people came up and put money on our heads and then, as it fell to the ground people collected it for the bride and groom. All the “showered money” goes to help the bride and groom get started in their marriage. Later I was called up to help introduce the cake. They love to hear white people speak Hausa, so I was asked to say the cake was good and the wedding was good in Hausa. They all laughed. There I was up dancing and getting showered with money again as the bride and groom danced up to the cake.

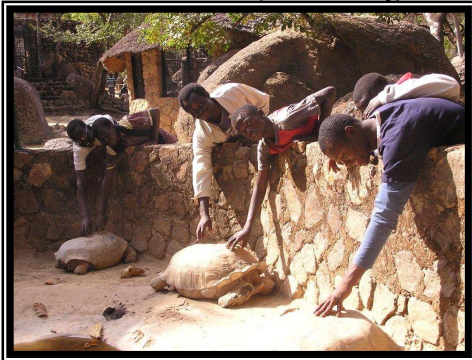
Although I was exhausted when I got home at 5:30, it was a fun time and it is always great to be involved in the celebrations with our Nigerian colleagues. Please pray for Uncle Musa and his wife as they adjust to married life.

A Changed Life: I don't know if you remember Abner, but I have written about him before. He is the boy I saw crawling on his hands and knees when I visited the Nigerian missionaries kid's school in 2002. Abner contracted polio when he was little which weakened his legs and left him unable to walk.



After having contracture release surgery on both knees, I worked with Abner helping to strengthen the muscles in his legs. Through the use of leg braces and crutches, Abner is now able to walk and participate in school activities. The braces made here in Nigeria are not very sturdy and do not last long before needing repair. The Hardin-Simmons team that came to Nigeria in August was willing to help us get new braces made for Abner in the USA. We put cast on both of Abner's legs and then cut the cast off. Since it was rainy season here, the cast took a long time to dry. I prayed that they would not fall apart or get deformed before they were dry. We then taped them together and packed them in boxes for the team to take back with them to Texas. We all prayed for a safe journey for the cast back to the USA. Praise God they made it back in one piece. Phil Palmer, leader of the Hardin-Simmons team was able to get the braces made for a low cost. The braces were sent to Nigeria with another team that came in October. It was a long and prayer filled process, but I was so excited when I saw the braces and even more excited when I saw Abner's smiling face. The braces fit him well and he was able to go and buy a "styling" pair of tennis shoes to wear rather than the high top boots he has always had to wear. I want to say a BIG thanks to everyone who was a part of the step-by step process to get these braces for Abner. His life has been changed yet again by better braces and new shoes.

Animal Tricks: When we transitioned the Junior High and High School boys from Gyero to Transition House, we arranged all the boys into three family groups. There are about



fifteen boys in each family group with six leaders. Five boys from our group are in boarding school. We went on our first outing this month. We went to the Jos Zoo which most of the boys have not gone to before. At one point, the boys and Uncle Bob were standing by the baboon cage posing for a picture. Just then, one of the big baboons roared and jumped on the cage right behind them and they all jumped and ran. We all laughed. Those baboons are crazy! The boys had fun feeding the monkeys peanuts and watching them do all kinds of tricks like spin around or flip upside down. What amazed me was this one big stork that was able to catch every peanut the boys threw in the air with his big beak. The lions and the cheetah were taking their afternoon nap, but the tortoises were awake and got a back rub from the boys. When we left the zoo, we went and found a place outside to have refreshments and fellowship.

Pray for me as I get to know all the new boys in my family group. Go to [picasaweb.google.com/glmccrady](https://picasaweb.google.com/glmccrady) for more pictures of our zoo outing.

### Praise:

- The wonderful relationships that I have with the Nigerian staff. I thank God for the ability he gives us to work well together in spite of our cultural differences.
- I am thankful for the teams that have come to Nigeria and brought supplies and offered their time and skills to help us minister to the Nigerian people.
- I am thankful for the new braces for Abner and all the people who helped make it happen.
- I am thankful that I have the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of the street boys and orphans in the ministry. I praise God for the lives that I have seen changed in this ministry.
- I am thankful for the many opportunities I have to share the gospel with patients at Evangel Hospital. Many people come to know the Lord each month through the ministry of the staff and chaplains.

### Prayer Request:

- Pray for strength and energy for me, as I am involved in several different ministries and projects right now. The holiday season is a real busy time in the ministry.
- Pray for Baba and Mama Yasir as a friend and I have been witnessing to them these past few months. Also pray for their M friend who has been reading the Bible with them.
- Pray for City Ministries, as the funds are low due to the economic crisis. This is the time of year to buy bulk grains at the lowest cost and we have many needed maintenance projects.
- Pray for me as I continue to develop relationships with the boys in my discipleship class. Pray that I can reach them at their spiritual level and help them grow in their relationship with Christ.
- Pray for the SIM annual Spiritual Life Conference January 7-11. Pray that all the preparations will go smooth and that it will be a time of rest and spiritual refreshment for all the missionaries.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Gay Lynn