



# McCraryMessage

Ministering in Nigeria

September 2008

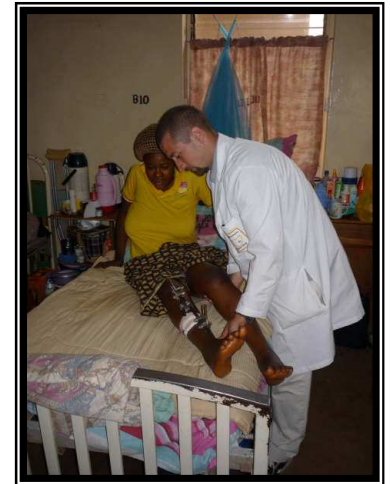
## A Glimpse at Overseas Missions

I recently had the privilege of hosting a team of Physical Therapy students from Hardin-Simmons University. Phillip Palmer, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy and six students, along with his wife and a friend of one of the students, came to Jos, Nigeria for three weeks. Hardin-Simmons University established PT Ministries in 2000 to provide health care/outreach activities to people in under-privileged parts of the community, nation, and world. I had the blessing of seeing this ministry in action. It is encouraging to see the mission emphasis in their Physical Therapy Degree Program



I know Phil and his wife, Elayne well, as they came to Nigeria two years ago with their son and two Physical Therapy students. It was a joy to get to know them and their time at the hospital was a blessing. I was excited to have them return. I wondered how we would fit all of them in our small department, but this is Nigeria and they have great skill in fitting lots of people in small spaces.

The team spent every day at Evangel Hospital treating patients. They were broken into three groups-outpatients, inpatients, and wound care. They rotated through each of these groups so they were able to treat patients in all the areas. The patients really benefited from their treatment. The department was always full of patients and no outpatient missed their appointment because they wanted to be treated by the team. It was not just the patients who benefited from this team. Phil and the students were able to teach the Nigerian therapist and me some new techniques and offer suggestions for many of our challenging cases. They also blessed the department with an abundance of therapy equipment and supplies, which we were so grateful to receive.



The team not only worked at the hospital, but also spent many afternoons



with the street children and orphans at our two care centers. The last week of their stay was the yearly camp for the boys in our ministry. The team was able to go and participate in the afternoon activities with the boys and spend time getting to know them. The girls in the center were feeling a little left out since they were not involved in camp that week. So it worked out great that some of the team was able to go and spend time with the girls doing fun activities in the afternoons. The team was also able to do some sightseeing and fun activities on the weekends. They went rock climbing, visited Miango Falls, hiked some trails, and went shopping in the market.

I really enjoyed hosting the team and having the opportunity to give them a glimpse of how they could use their career on the mission field to help people both physically and spiritually. Phil and Elayne were missionaries overseas for many years and I know it brings him joy, to encourage his students to consider practicing in a mission setting, after they graduate. There is already a plan for a team to come next year. I look forward to hosting them and seeing what God will do in their lives through their experiences here in Nigeria.

# The King and I



This year was the first camp for the girls in our ministry. The girls were so excited. I could not be there the whole time, but I had the joy of joining the girls in the afternoons and being involved in all the fun activities. The theme for the camp was “The King and I.” The girls learned about who the King (God) is, what it means to be a daughter of the King, how to live like a daughter of the King, how sin affects our lives, and then they were given an invitation to become a daughter of the King. Many of the girls were touched by the teaching and accepted Christ for the first time or rededicated their lives to Christ.

The afternoons were filled with fun activities. The girls baked and decorated cookies, made jewelry, tie dyed draw-stringed bags, went swimming, and played sports. The evenings were filled with games, a movie night, a bonfire, where we roasted marshmallows, and lots of singing and dancing. The last night was a special night. We planned a big banquet. Each girl received an invitation to come to the King’s Banquet. The girls got all dressed up and each girl was given a flowing scarf and a tiara. The room was all decorated with lights and balloons and we had stringed instruments playing at the beginning. The girls or should I say princesses all entered, as their names were called and found a seat at the long banquet table. The night was filled with good food, music, a special three-layer cake, and lots of dancing. I know this was a week that the girls will never forget.

## Praise

- A great time with the Hardin-Simmons team.
- The abundance of therapy supplies they brought for the hospital.
- A wonderful girl’s camp.
- A good trip to Kano to see my friends and their ministries.
- A new leader at the Gyero Care Center.

## Prayer

- Pray for two boys from the ministry that were reconciled home. They are experiencing some difficulties and one has been caught stealing around his village.
- Pray for the boys as they have now been transferred to the different care centers. Elementary age to Gyero Care Center and Junior High and High School to the Jos Care Center. Pray for a good transition for all of them.
- Pray for the many projects happening at Evangel Hospital right now. The playground is going to be installed at the beginning of Oct. and I am helping to provide new wheelchairs and a stretcher for the hospital.
- Pray for the discipleship leaders as we choose teaching materials and begin our new discipleship classes with the boys.

Gay Lynn McCrady

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

## Change of information:

If your mailing address has changed or will be changing soon, please e-mail me at the address below as I am presently updating the address list.

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