



Empowering the Next Generation

City Ministries started accepting girls into their Gyero village care center in 2006. We started with just three girls, but over time that number increased. We expanded the Gyero compound, built more houses and added staff to care for all of the girls. At the beginning of this year we had sixty five girls in the center. Wow! That is a huge growth in about a five year time span. Reconciliation is a big focus of the ministry for the children who come that do have one living parent or some extended family. The goal of the ministry is to help provide care and education for a few years while helping the family come to a level where they can take the children back into their home. This year twelve girls were reconciled back to their families. This was exciting for us as well as the girls. We now have fifty two girls and several of them are teenagers.

The needs of teenage girls are much different than little girls. About two years ago we began to realize that we would soon have several teenage girls in the ministry. Nicky, a missionary from the UK is in charge of the girl's



ministry. She envisioned having a transition house for the teenage girls to help prepare them for life when they leave the ministry. It has been a long journey with lots of struggles. In the Nigerian culture, more emphasis is placed on the education and advancement of boys than girls. So, trying to get support from the Nigerians to develop this transition house was a long and hard battle. Now, two years later the victory has come. A governing board has been formed, the funding has come, house parents have been hired, and furniture made. Only one thing remained—a house.



God has amazing ways of providing for our needs. Many houses had come available, but they were either too expensive, too small or not located in a good area for our needs. Time was short, as we wanted to get the girls enrolled in school and everything set up by September. At the monthly ministry prayer meeting, the need for a house was brought up as a prayer point. One of our staff that works as a nurse in northern Nigeria heard the prayer request. She felt God calling her to meet this need. She had a family house that is just sitting vacant. She felt that it needed to be used for ministry and not just sit unused. So, she gave the house to the ministry to be used for two years. Praise the Lord! This would give the ministry time to build a house of their own to be the permanent girl's site. The house needed some painting inside and some electrical work done, but otherwise it is a great house and it is the perfect size to meet our needs.

Before the girls moved into the house, there was a dedication service. City Ministry staff, missionaries, the pastor of the village church and even people from the village came for the service. We were surprised, but overjoyed to find that the leadership board of our partnering Nigerian mission also came. It was a great time to hear all the blessings that had been showered on this ministry along with a time of prayer for the girls and the staff working in this ministry.



Now the nine girls are settled into the house, enrolled in school, and ready for their next phase in life. There will be job skills training in the morning for those not attending school and discipleship and life skills classes in the afternoon. I will teach a life skills class this semester on relationships, attitudes and making good choices. Later I will lead a discipleship class with three or four of the girls.

A Time of Transition

My term in Nigeria is finishing and I will go on home assignment the beginning of December. My plan is to be in the USA for six months and then return to Nigeria. I look forward to seeing as many of my supporters and friends as possible during that time. I am in the process of transitioning out of the ministries I have been doing and making preparations for other people to cover for me while I am away. I am grateful for the people who are willing to take over the running of various aspects of the Healing Touch Clinic. Iyabo, my seamstress has been well trained and will be able to cover the needs of the patients while I am away. I am overjoyed to see the growth of the clinic and the number of patients that have had reduction of their scars since wearing the pressure garments. I have been raising awareness of the ministry at hospitals, churches, and other groups and I can already see the increase in patients.



I am in the process of another transition. I have worked at the hospital for the past nine years. The last year and a half has been a real struggle with lots of changes happening in the hospital. It has also been a struggle in the Physiotherapy Department in regards to the caseload and types of patients that come for treatment. I have really prayed about this situation and feel that God has a different direction for me when I return back to Nigeria. I have a passion to help burn patients and feel that I would be more beneficial working together with multiple hospitals that treat burn patients than just working at one hospital. My vision is to work alongside the Nigerian surgeons and physiotherapists and help educate them in ways to prevent and reduce contractures and scarring in the burn patient. This would include spending time in clinics and inpatient/outpatient therapy to help implement proper positioning, splinting and early range of motion exercises to help in the overall rehabilitation of the patient. I will continue to pray about this during my home assignment. Please pray that God will direct my steps as I embark in this new ministry.

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Praise:

- The blessing of a house for the girl's transition house center.
- Wonderful house parents and volunteer staff to help run the girl's transition house.
- For continued opportunities to help burn patients both physically and spiritually.
- For two patients who came for check-up and had good reduction of their burn scars since wearing the pressure garments.
- For two opportunities this month to speak about the pressure garments.
- A time of peace in Jos.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for wisdom and strength for the staff as we teach the transition house girls and strive to be godly examples.
- Pray for me as I make preparations for the running of the Healing Touch clinic while I am on home assignment.
- Pray that more burn patients will come to the Healing Touch clinic and find healing through wearing the pressure garments.
- Pray for me as I make preparations for home assignment.
- Pray for me as I seek God's guidance in this transition to a new ministry focus when I return to Nigeria.

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