



Dreams for the Future

Our girls in the ministry are growing up! I look at them and remember when they were little girls running around playing games, doing crafts, and jumping up and down excitedly when I would arrive at the care center.



This year we had our first two graduates from high school. My friend Nicky and I went to the graduation acting as stand-in mothers and sat there with smiles bursting with pride during the ceremony. Some of the girl's relatives were able to attend the graduation and that was a blessing for them. Now they are making plans for what they want to do for their future. Both girls want to attend university at some point, so they need to learn a skill that will help them earn money for university as well as earn a living. Alheri is presently in a sewing program learning to design and sew clothes while Elizabeth is in computer training. Pray for these two girls as they embark on a new phase of their life and learn new skills that

will help empower them for the future.

We have four girls who have been in our vocational training program learning many different types of hand crafts and taking life skills classes. Now that they have finished the program, they are all involved in apprenticeships in various occupations.

"I came to the ministry and they started teaching me sewing. I really liked it and wanted to learn more so I could help sew clothes for the children in the ministry. When I finish my training, I would like to come and teach some of the children how to sew." Faith S was brought to the ministry by a pastor due to involvement in the Secret Society. She was an older teenager so she was started in a skills training program along with discipleship. When the girl's Transition House opened, she came and joined the vocational training program at our center. She is now doing an apprenticeship learning to design and sew clothes.



Hannatu has been in our village care center for several years. She came to the girl's Transition House for vocational training and has now completed the program. She is now doing an apprenticeship in a hair salon. Hannatu told me that she likes washing and plaiting hair and she is enjoying working at the salon.

Faith M has also completed the vocational training program and did a short three month training class in baking. Now we are looking for an apprenticeship for her that would teach her skills in catering and cake decorating. When I asked Faith M why she chose baking, she said "At first I did not want to do baking, but after I started, it just stuck with me like it was what God called me to do. Now I enjoy it and I want to learn catering and cake decorating."

We have another girl who will be starting her apprenticeship at the salon we are opening at our girl's Transition House. She will be working as an apprentice under our oldest girl in the ministry who has finished her training in hair and nails and will be running the salon. We thank God everyday for the blessings of people who are willing to take on our girls and train them in a skill that will help support them when they leave the ministry. It has been exciting to see the girls putting their dreams into action. I can't wait to see what God has in store for all of them for the future.

The Three “E’s”

There have been three major issues these past few months that have created significant stress for us here in Nigeria. I call them the three “E’s”: Ebola, Extremists, and Elections.

EBOLA has ravaged West Africa with the virus beginning in Guinea in January and then spreading to Sierra Leone and Liberia, with more than 5,000 cases and a 50%+ mortality rate reported. A sick traveler from Liberia managed to board a plane to Lagos, Nigeria. He died in Lagos. Then one person infected with the virus slipped out of Lagos and traveled to Port Harcourt. Some of the medical personnel who helped treat these sick people in the hospital also succumbed to the ravages of the disease. Nigerian health officials acted quickly to quarantine those who came in contact with the affected parties and numbers seem to be limited to 19 cases with 7 deaths and 12 recoveries. We praise God that the outbreak has been contained here in Nigeria and pray that no new cases arise. The crisis in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone has reached epidemic stage, with leaders desperately calling for help from the international community. Please pray with us for the Lord’s intervention over this virus.

EXTREMIST activities have devastated much of the northeast region of Nigeria over the past five years, leaving many families grieving and scattered. The stories of villages being attacked and burned, as well as multiple incidents of abductions are heartbreaking. Please pray with us that the Lord would comfort and provide for the bereaved and homeless.

ELECTIONS for President and Governor are slated for February 2015. The nomination process for the many parties finalizes in October and November. There is general apprehension, based on past election experiences. Many times there has been post election violence especially in the North. Please pray with us that the election process will take place peacefully.

Praise:

- The containment of Ebola in Nigeria.
- The willingness of several Nigerians to take our girls on for apprenticeships and skills training.
- The graduation of two of our girls from high school.
- Successful surgery for one of our girls who has been suffering from abdominal pain for months.
- Increase in the number of burn patients coming for pressure garments.
- A great time in England for a much needed break and attendance of a friend’s wedding.

Prayer Request:

- Pray for good adjustment for the two new short-term missionaries on my compound.
- Pray for me as I get the apartments set up for two more short-term missionaries coming hopefully in the next two months.
- Pray for Joy and Simbe, two patients who were burned in the last bomb blast. Pray for good healing and reduction of burn scars.
- Pray for me as I begin discipleship with new girls at the girls TH.
- Pray for healing for those suffering from Ebola and for strength and protection for the health workers in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

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