

McCradyMessag

Ministering in Nigeria

August 2005

Quiet Among the Chaos



There are times when I am left with my head spinning after a day of honking horns, dodging motorcycle taxis and people on the road, seeing patients at the hospital, rushing off to the clinic at Gidan Bege, and then being stopped by someone begging for money as I head home. I throw up my hands and say, "Calgon take me away." These are the times I go to a small shop where I can sit down, drink a mineral (soft drink), and leave all the stresses of the day behind me for just a short time. The small shop is Becky's shop, which is around the corner from my house. Becky is a sweet Nigerian lady who always has a smile on her face and is always happy to see me when I come to her shop. She loves to chat; so we enjoy a time of talking and laughing. It is great to sit and have a little quiet among the chaos. I leave feeling refreshed and ready to face the tasks that are ahead for the rest of the day.

Another blessing that Becky's shop provides for me and the other people in my compound is convenience. The market is crowded, noisy, and it is quite difficult to find a parking spot so the last thing you want to do after coming home from a busy day is go to the market. It is great to have a shop just around the corner that sells bread, eggs, spaghetti, sugar, juice, toilet paper, cookies and more. There have been many times that I have been baking and I realized that I did not have enough eggs or sugar, or visitors were coming, and I had no napkins. All I had to do was run around the corner to get the items I needed. Sometimes blessings are just the small things that make life a little easier or comfort us when we are in need.



Reaching Out to the Lost

Miriam came to the clinic at Gidan Bege one Wednessday because she had fractured her leg several months ago and had no money for surgery. I offered to help her with the expenses for the clinic visit and surgery. Miriam and her family are Muslims and they do not speak any English. This was a great opportunity to practice my Hausa, but there were many times we could not communicate what we wanted to say to each other. Miriam had a successful surgery on her leg and now has an external fixator to stablize the bones which she will wear for six to eight weeks. Miriam was so thankful for all the help I had given her. When she left the hospital, a Nigerian friend and I visited her in her home. I took some rice and beans as a gift for her which is what one does in this culture when visiting a person. It was a great experience to talk to her and her family along with the neighbors who crowded around outside the door to see the white person. The house is just one room with two beds, one chair and a small table. Miriam's sister was experiencing pain from a sicle cell attack. I was able to provide her with some pain medicine and go to the pharmacy to buy her some medicine. I continue to pray for this family. I hope that the friendship I develop with them will give me the opportunity to share about Christ. I want to help heal her physically, but I also hope that I can help heal her spiritually.

Praise

- Adora, one of my burn patients, is recovering well after her skin graft.
- Sixty six boys at Transition House tested negative for HIV.
- My ability to speak Hausa is improving and I have been able to carry on short conversations in Hausa with my patients and friends.

Prayer

- Pray for the healing of Miriam's leg and that her and her family will come to know Christ.
- Pray for the boys at Transition House as they learn about HIV/Aids. Pray that they will understand the information and will abstain from activities that would put them at risk
- Pray for one of the therapist at the hospital. She is ill and has taken a leave from work until she has recovered.
- Pray for me as I continue to learn how to deal with money issues in this culture, as there are so many people in need
- Pray that I will have wisdom as I try to share Christ with Miriam and her family.

Gay Lynn

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"

Joshua 1:9

Change of information:

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