



Reconciliation of the Boys

A few months ago our ministry started to re-evaluate how we were doing things in the care centers. The population of boys has grown rapidly in the last few years and we have not addressed the fact that many of these boys could return to their families. Many boys were involved in occultic practices and now after being disciplined for several years could be reconciled back into their communities. It is so much better for these boys to be with their families as culturally the family and extended family unit is very strong. The process started with about 100 boys going home for the Christmas break. The staff visited the families to check on the boys and discuss the boys returning home permanently.

We realized that some of the boys needed to stay with the ministry, but others could go home with help from the ministry to pay school fees so that they could finish their education. Many of the older boys need to be learning a trade along with their education so they can have a skill to help support themselves when they finish school. The older boys were sent to a technical boarding school and they will come to Transition House or go to their families for holidays.

The beginning of February was a busy time as we had a send forth for the boys who were leaving to go home or to boarding school. Then several missionaries and staff traveled with the boys to take them to their families. It was a difficult time for the boys and the staff. We were so happy that they could be reconciled to their families, but it was hard to say goodbye when they had been a part of our lives for so long. May God bless them and use



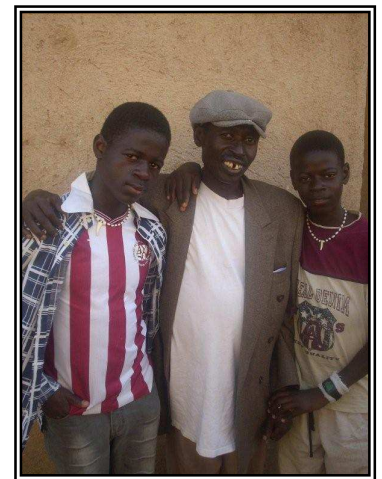
them as a light in their communities and in the boarding school.

I went to visit four of our boys who had been reconciled back to their families. They all four live in the same town. When two of them saw me, they came running out yelling, "Aunty Gay Lynn." It was so good to see them. They had big smiles on their faces and they all said that they really enjoy being at home. We had a good time talking and eating snacks. They said that they have made many new friends at school. It was so fun to watch them laugh, play, and give each other a hard time. It is a blessing to know they are doing well and that they live so close and can hang out together.



Steven and Matthew are brothers that were reconciled home to live with their father. After being home only a little over a month, their father died of liver failure. Our first thought was that they would return to Transition House. But there was a complication; they might lose the house if they left. The manager of Gidan Bege went with us to visit the boys at their house and check up on them. Their uncle and sister also live in the house, but neither of them is able to support and care for the boys. It was decided that the boys would remain at home for the next few months with food supplies and frequent visits from the ministry and then return to Transition House for the next school term. The manager will talk with a lawyer about the boys getting control of the house.

It was great to have several of the boys home from boarding school for break. It was good to see them and hear their stories about school. It was a transition for them at the beginning, but they all said that they enjoyed the school. Their main complaint was that they did not get enough food. Food always seems to be the main problem. Many of the boys are learning agriculture and maintenance of equipment while others are learning refrigeration and air conditioning. They are really enjoying their training. One of the boys reported that it is a little rough there. He said that there is not a big Christian influence there. Though this may be challenging, it is a good opportunity for them to stand strong in their faith and be witnesses to the other students. We put these boys in God's hands and know that he will care for them and guide them.



A Celebration of Healing



On a sunny March morning at Evangel Hospital, the hospital grounds are full of women singing and dancing. The program area is packed with a large crowd. Dozens more people are standing around the perimeter interested in seeing what is happening. Twenty four young women in new, matching dresses and head ties sing and dance at a ceremony celebrating their healing and new life. Surgery healed most of them. They may no longer leak urine. But for many, their families banished them, and their husbands divorced them. They must make new lives.

Early marriage is a normal practice in Nigeria. These young girls get pregnant and when it is time to deliver, the process is difficult because their pelvis is so small. The baby gets stuck in the birth canal and dies. The baby's head wears a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum. So, when the dead baby is

eventually delivered, the girl is left with a dead child and she is draining urine and/or stool continuously. She smells horribly from the constant flow of urine and stool on her clothes. The condition is called vesicovaginal fistula or VVF. VVF can also occur when a woman is in prolonged labor and is not able to get to a hospital for treatment. The baby may live, but because the head was pressed against the bladder for so long, a fistula or hole occurs in the bladder.

Evangel Hospital has a VVF program that lovingly and unconditionally accepts and cares for these patients. It is one of the few hospitals that perform surgery on these patients. There are female chaplains who provide counseling and evangelism and a rehabilitation center to teach them skills so they can support themselves. Many of these women are from Muslim backgrounds and have responded to the Gospel through the witness of the staff, chaplains, and the Jesus film.

The VVF Reunion is a big celebration every year. All former patients are invited to come for the weekend long program. They get health checkups, counseling, and a time to celebrate together the gift of healing.

Praise

- I was able to create photo albums for my website. Go to gaylynninnigeria.com to view these albums and more will continue to be added.
- Great success with the reconciliation of the boys. Good to see they are happy with their families.

Prayer

- Pray for the Gidan Bege staff as we continue the reconciliation of the boys and begin taking new boys in April.
- Pray for Stephen and Matthew as they try to maintain control of their father's house now that he is gone. Pray for the manager as he works with the lawyer to help with legal matters for their inheritance of the house.
- Pray for the VVF program as they continue to touch the lives of these rejected women and lead them to Christ.
- Pray for my friend Nicky and I as we travel to South Africa April 14-May 6 for a retreat and vacation time.

Gay Lynn McCrady

Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

II Timothy 1:12

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