



Come on Children it's Time to Play

Most of you know that my vision, even before I left for Nigeria, was for a playroom at the hospital so the children would have activities to do that would help in their recovery. Now that vision has come to completion. The playroom is finished. Praise God! With the help of one carpenter, two artists, many supporters giving toys, dolls, and games, and many people's prayers the playroom is a beautiful and fun place for the children. I love to watch their

faces as they run in and look at all the animals on the wall. I see them crawling in and out of the cutouts in the wall smiling and laughing. The most favored toys in the toy box seem to be the little matchbox cars and the small balls, which they play soccer with in the hall or throw and catch. Many of the younger children like the blocks and the older children like to read the books and do the puzzles. Puzzles have been the most challenging as most children have never done puzzles before and have no clue how to begin. I will take one or two puzzles to one child and put it together with him showing him how to put the edges together first and then the middle. Then I let him try by himself. It is great to see their big smiles as they show it to me and tell me they did it all by

themselves. Then the next day they ask for another puzzle.

The children who are confined to bed love it when I bring them coloring pages or games to play. Many times I have entered the room and found the parent or relative having just as much fun doing a puzzle or coloring a picture as the child. Well, we all have a little child in us, right? Most of the parents have never had a chance to do these activities and they have to spend all day at the hospital caring for their child with little to fill their time.

The playroom has been a great tool for me when I do therapy with my patients. It is a great motivation to get children out of bed that need to walk, whether for movement after a burn, strengthening, or endurance post surgery. We walk down to the playroom and look at the animals on the wall and some stay and play for a while. I have used the ABC picture blocks to help one child increase his English. I have used the toys and games in treating patients with burns, meningitis, fractures, and developmental delay. The children and I want to say thank you to Grace Church Richardson, Richardson, TX and First Baptist Church, Waxahachie, TX for all the toys, games and books you collected. We want to also thank all the people who donated toys, dolls, games, etc. for the playroom. Without you this room would not have become what it is now—a place of fun and adventure.



A Home Called Paradise



Emmanuel was admitted to the hospital 10 months ago after an oven exploded at the bakery where he worked sending a scorching hot pipe several inches in diameter and six feet long up through his face. We praise God as he mercifully spared Emmanuel's life and are thankful for the wonderful work of several of the surgeons at the hospital. During his hospitalization I have become very good friends with him and his friend Edward. Edward has been at his bedside doing all his care and bringing him food. Emmanuel has endured several surgeries and has had a tracheostomy for breathing and a feeding tube to receive nutrition. He has improved greatly to where now he is able to eat by mouth and get up and

do some work at the hospital. Emmanuel and Edward were living at the bakery where they worked so they were now out of a home and a job. A room became available for them to rent but they had to put one year's rent up front. They had no money to pay. Thanks to all your financial support I was able to help pay for the rent for one year. They were so excited. Edward now has a job which is a blessing from God. Emmanuel is not discharged from the hospital, but he is free to go outside the hospital during the day. But Emmanuel does not want to leave because he is embarrassed by how he looks. I offered to drive him to his new home one day after work. He was so excited and I will never forget the look on his face as he entered his new home. He sat down, looked around and said, "This is paradise." Now, anytime we make a reference to his home we call it paradise. That was a special experience I will never forget. Emmanuel has one more surgery in December, he will go home, and then he will return in March for his last surgery. Emmanuel's presence at the hospital is a powerful testimony to all who see him and hear his story.

Praise

- The physical therapist at the hospital is feeling better and has returned to work.
- A "help fund" has been started at Gidan Bege to help staff and volunteers with needs. This is such a blessing as it has been stressful with many of them coming to me personally for money.
- I have a new Hausa helper who will be able to help me understand the grammar and progress further in my language skills.

Prayer

- Pray for Miriam (Muslim friend) who will have her baby this month. We have built a good friendship and I continue to pray that she and her family will come to know Christ.
- Pray for my discipleship class at Transition House. It was divided into two groups so now I have 13 boys instead of 26. Pray that they will grow in their faith and understand what it means to live for Christ.
- Pray that the playroom will be a blessing for the children and a means of sharing Christ with them.
- Pray that we will find sponsors for all the boys in the ministry. If you would be interested in sponsoring a needy child for \$25 a month, contact me by e-mail or mail and I will give you the information you need.

Gay Lynn

**Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and
not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31**

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