

By His Grace, For His Glory

*Declaring the Glory of God to the Peoples of Africa
By working with City Ministries in Jos, Nigeria*

December, 2009

Dear family and friends,

It is officially the Christmas season!!! Our tree, decorations, and collection of nativity sets are up. Christmas carols are playing whenever we have electricity. The boys are telling us what they want for Christmas. And we are counting the days until school is out and Christmas Break begins. (Granted it doesn't always feel like the season — especially the dry and hot while friends and family at home are getting cold and white stuff from the sky.) But then we get to live the Christmas season all the time . . . Because of all the gifts God continues to give. Here are just a few examples.

A New House for Girls

Even in these hard economic times when giving to City Ministries has declined, God is still at work and is providing for all aspects of the ministry. Construction slowed quite a lot in August and September (giving Richard time to help out with some construction projects at SIM's Retreat Center), but then in October we got a large donation from a mission agency in northern Ireland (Mission Africa) to build another house for the girls ministry at Gyero. There are now 43 girls at Gyero, and they are rapidly running out of space. This new house will be dormitory style with 5 sleeping rooms and a large common room. It will sleep as many as 30 girls so they can have a home.



Beginnings of a dormitory for the girls at Gyero.



Susan in the classroom at Hillcrest

A Chance to Minister to Students

Susan has enjoyed teaching Middle School Home-Ec and 12th Grade Foods Class at Hillcrest. She has also been blessed with the chance to be the discipleship leader for the senior girls. She “worked full time in order to teach part time” because teaching AND the classes were new to her, but as she comes to an end of the semester she testifies to the many gifts God has given her — good relationships with 35+ students, strength and creativity to teach, rediscovered sewing skills and increased cooking skills (she learned lots by teaching.). After the New Year she will teach “Life Skills” to upperclassmen and continue as discipleship leader. She will have lots more chances to give and receive in the new semester.

The Mighty Maine Team — The Team That Kept on Giving

In November a group of nine from East Auburn Baptist Church, including Susan's parents, spent 13 days giving to the kids at the Gyero CARE Center, EMS Children's school, and the Kagoro CARE Center. Crafts including tie-dye T-shirts (over 200), fish made with old CD's, God's eyes, and more were tangible gifts the team left with each kid. Even in their “off hours” they kept on giving and blessing others — they packed Christmas bags for the kids (with things they brought from the States), distributed 400 pairs of croc-offs/shoes, croqueted and gave blankets and hats for staff, bought presents for family/friends back home from our Widow's ministry and another local ministry working with women affected by AIDS, and even clean and repaired sewing machines at Hillcrest. We had the team in our house twice and ate with them several other times so we could get to know them. What a gift God gave us in each team member.



The Mighty Maine Team

Two Great Kids and Good Family Time

David and Brian have been busy at Hillcrest and continue to enjoy it. We see them growing and maturing in many ways. Brian is becoming quite the math whiz, and David continues to ace his spelling tests. They enjoy football (American soccer), game cube, basketball, and any chance they can get to play baseball. Dad is their favorite pitcher. TV time is limited because electricity is limited so we enjoy playing Phase 10 and other games together. Recently we spent one evening having a great dinner. The boys were excited about our Nigerian food (a huge growth point for both of them) which we ate by candlelight since there was no electricity. After licking our fingers from eating sticky rice and stew with them, we started playing with the candles, wax and matches. We were at the dinner table for 1 1/2 hours talking and enjoying each other — a precious gift worth remembering for a long time.



Great Friends, Prayer Warriors, and Supporters

During these economic hard times many missionaries are having a hard time making ends meet because their support is low. But we are so grateful to report that God has continued to meet our financial needs through many of you. We are so thankful to be able to minister for God's glory together with you!!!! And during some pretty heavy ministry times (Susan spoke at a conference for Nigerian women while the team was here and she was teaching) it was very evident that many were praying and God answered giving abundant strength and grace. What huge gifts God and you give.

A Chance to Retreat and Refill for More Giving

We must admit though — with all this giving there are times we need to receive. It has been a busy 20 months in Nigeria following a tough year in the States and 5 years ministering in Kenya. We are tired, so we are praying about attending a retreat called *Breathe* next summer designed for the “renewal and enrichment” of cross cultural workers. This retreat would require a significant investment of time and finances in order for us to participate — we have been told by missionaries that have gone in the past that it is well worth it. We want to be equipped to continue to give and want God to show us if *Breathe* is a way to get some of that filling and equipping. We know God is able to provide and if He wants us to go then He will provide everything we need. Will you join us in seeking God with regard to this conference? (For more information about the retreat check out their website at http://bfconline.org/con_communityLife.cfm?m=201&c=1000060). If you have insight about whether we should go or not, would like to give towards our going, or have other ideas on how we can be refilled please let us know.

We are so grateful to God for the best gift of all — His wonderful Son who came to be God with us. May you sense His wonderful presence all through this giving season and 2010.

By His grace, For His glory,

Richard, Susan David and Brian Snyder

God Has Given Us So Much

- Thank Him for each gift He has given us — especially the gift of His Son — the source and reason for all giving.
- Pray for a deepening relationship with God. Ask to open the eyes of our heart to see the splendor of His glory so we may treasure and enjoy him.
- Ask God to refill us — and ask Him for wisdom regarding going to Breathe, finances to go, or other opportunities to be refilled.

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