

Happy New Year From Nigeria

Jan 2020

Greetings from Jos at the beginning of the New Year. It has been a very busy few months since I last wrote. We have finished our first term at school and all 46 pupils have done well. We are still continuing to furnish the classrooms; we now have library shelves awaiting books, and the Home Economics room is under construction, and next is the Science Lab. We are very happy with our building and hope to plaster and paint the outside before the next rainy season starts.



I have been acting Principal all term and that has meant doing a lot of teacher training, observing lessons, checking exam papers, training our secretary, undergoing an inspection by the ECWA (Evangelical Church Winning All) and generally keeping things moving along... not something I ever expected to do. However, PTL **we have appointed a new Principal** and she starts next week 😊. Her name is Rebecca and she is an experienced teacher and I think she will be great, I am looking forward to mentoring her and gradually handing over the reins, so that I can concentrate on other areas.

Our vocational programme is going well; the girls have enjoyed learning about the hair salon and practicing on each other as you can see from the pictures. It is amazing how much their level of self-esteem and confidence has developed through attending school alongside their sisters.



I want to be able to spend more time developing the vocational programmes in the New Year, so we can offer our courses to local children in September.

The tribal situation has calmed down a lot in the area; thanks for praying about that, but still Aqua has not been allowed back and I have many projects awaiting his supervision.

I am hoping that in the next few weeks he will be allowed to work again safely; please remember to pray for that to happen.

We have had a busy Christmas, with parties for the children across the ministry for all 350 kids.

We were able to buy them all a new set of clothes much to their delight and as an answer to their prayers, Thank You to all who gave towards this.



Pictured here are our younger children in Gyero, 100 in all at their Christmas Party. After all the parties were over I took our three biggest girls who are now working for the ministry to Abuja for an awareness trip to open their eyes to things they have never experienced before. It was a lot of fun as we experienced lifts, escalators, supermarkets, the cinema, eating in restaurants, seeing aeroplanes, going in a boat etc., things that are all pretty normal to you all, but not for them. Fransisca came along, too. It was a good end to the term for all of us.



Then we came back and we had ten girls that were left with nowhere to go for Christmas, and so they came to stay with me. We baked our cookies (600 this year), did carol singing in our local area of Bassa and gave them all out to our neighbours. They piled into my house and we grilled outside, ate plenty of chicken and rice, played lots of games and generally had a loud and busy time together. They are great at all wanting to cook and wash up; it's a novelty to them to have hot water coming out of a tap, which helps!! After 3 nights together they went home and I could finally get some rest and alone time 😊



I am about to go to our Spiritual Life conference for a few days with my SIM colleagues, and as I contemplate the new year ahead, I don't know what it will hold, but I do know the one who holds me and sustains me, and He has been surprising me and challenging me all year!! I look forward to sharing my journey with you in 2020.

I pray that you all will have a Happy New Year and that you will be encouraged by all you see happening in the ministry. We are thriving and growing; God is providing for all of our needs, and we are very thankful.

Love
Nicky x