

Greetings from Jos July 2020

The picture opposite sums up what daily life looks like nowadays for me here in Nigeria. It is incredible that we have reached July all the time being on some sort of restriction due to the COVID 19 virus. The virus has not spread as much as it has in some countries, but all the schools shut down at the end of March and have not yet re-opened. We have been on various lockdown patterns with days of movement for people to be able to buy and sell food, for the banks to open and for churches to be open for 50 people. It is not easy though, for people to be confined where there is no government support. For most people, if they don't earn money they go hungry, and many people have been suffering such and so the restrictions have been removed as long as people are wearing facemasks. This has, of course, led to an increase in cases in recent days as people seem to go around thinking there is no virus!! In many ways, the situation is riskier now. As missionaries, we are trying to be extra careful and trying to keep distanced, but that is not easy in a very relational culture. PTL we have all been fine so far.



For me this has been a very productive time of re-evaluation; a time to prepare resources for training that I have been wanting to do for a while, to spend more time in Bible Study and prayer, to spend time with other missionaries on my compound, teaching Fransisca (who stayed with me for nearly 3 months) how to cook, to do jigsaws and play games. It has been a very unifying time amongst the small team on ground. Also, there have been times



of rest which I was in need of. It has been great to join in church services from the UK too. I have benefitted a lot from that.

I have been very content, despite the airports being closed and therefore no chance of travel for the time being. I have definitely experienced the Peace of the Lord during this time.



We have been able, on our free days, to visit the girls to give them things and to check on them, albeit from a distance, and to encourage the staff. They have been busy doing three hours of work set by their teachers every day, and it is the time of year for farming, so they have been happily planting as well as giving out food to needy people in their area. They have been doing their own church services and greatly enjoying that; they are all healthy.

We have, however, had many challenges during this time in our girls ministry. God has been revealing things that were hidden that he wanted to bring to the surface, through dreams and in



unexpected ways, and Satan has been attacking us big time. We have a girl who got pregnant at University and who came back to live with us due to lockdown. This totally shocked us all and made us second guess everything we have been doing in preparing these girls for life in the outside world. It especially shocked and upset the girls, as they looked up to her. Several had been pre-warned in dreams and then were shocked that these came true! This resulted in several of the girls coming forward to confess various sexual abuses that had happened to them, leaving them feeling very vulnerable.

Then, two girls were manifesting occultist dreams and were behaving strangely causing fear to the house. We have all been doing a lot of prayer and fasting and things have improved a lot and the girls have all learnt how to protect Jesus over their lives. They regularly stop to pray now throughout the day and night over their sisters and the house.

During all this painful time of hearing lots of sad stories of rape and the evil ways some of these girls have been treated, I felt God was asking me to help them recover, even though this is definitely outside of my comfort zone. We have so little access to counsellors here and so much trauma to vulnerable girls. It's not that I didn't know or suspect that some of our girls have been affected by such in their past, but the timing and scale is surprising.



Just at the time I was praying about where God wanted me to focus my time, now the building is finished, a good friend of mine, who is also a counsellor, suggested a book and workbook to me which I read. I was able to adapt it to the girls' level. It's "[On the Threshold of Hope](#)." So I have stepped out in faith and have begun to meet with a small group of seven girls to help them on the road to recovery. Please pray for them, and me, as we go through painful memories and discuss things together. PTL for time during lockdown to prepare for this. **I have a few people who have experienced sexual abuse praying for these girls, if you would like to get involved in that too let me know and I will give you weekly updates.**

It's also time for Fransisca to stop being my assistant as she moves into overseeing all of the education in the ministry; she has grown so much and will be great in this much needed role, even though it is sad for both of us. God has revealed that my next assistant should be Elizabeth, one of our former girls, who has had her own challenges in this area above. She can relate well to the girls and loves to spend time with them as a big sister; they confide in her a lot. This will also give me the chance to mentor her as she, too, goes through a healing process. So lots of changes for me, there is never a dull moment here even during a lockdown!!



We are experiencing some [financial challenges](#), too, as a result of the virus, especially in our school, as we haven't been able to open and therefore receive school fees to help pay the teachers' salaries. If this is something you could help with, please go to www.sim.co.uk or www.sim.usa and donate to project Kings Kids 96901.

Thank You for your continued support
Love,
Nicky x