

## Hi from the Blyths!



I'm just back from our new pediatric ICU—I rushed down there right after dinner when an intern called me to tell me of a patient in respiratory arrest. The boy is 11 years old, a student at a boarding school here. His parents live 8 hours away and

don't even know he's sick. Sadly, though we stabilized his breathing, he seems to have suffered catastrophic brain damage and probably won't survive the night. But another boy his age, Pam Gyang, is eating and talking on the peds ward tonight after a week in the ICU. At first he also seemed to have little hope of recovery from heart and kidney failure.

I'm a pediatrician at Evangel Hospital in Jos, Nigeria. It's a 150-bed hospital run by the Evangelical Church of West Africa, the Nigerian church that originally grew from the work of our mission, SIM. We not only care physically for the needy, but also have an active gospel witness. A team of four chaplains (two men and two women) visits patients not only to listen to them but also to share the gospel. We show films like the *Jesus* video daily. Recently I laughed with delight to hear of the Muslim Fulani man who wanted to hear more about Jesus after seeing the film in his language: he said, "Imagine—I never knew that Jesus could speak Fulfulde!"

Northern Nigerians are some of the poorest people in the world. One quarter of the children die before age 5, and most are chronically malnourished. The \$15 deposit we charge for admission to the hospital is two weeks' salary for most people. We're so thankful to have partners contributing to the needy children's fund so we can defray the cost and provide urgently needed care when needed, even to those who can pay very little.

One of the best things about Evangel is our family practice residency program, where we train Christian Nigerian doctors for 4–6 years. We are so blessed to play a part in the lives of these men and women as they grow professionally and spiritually.

In the past Barb has been involved part time in women's literacy, teaching hospital employees as well as the wives of students at Jos Evangelical Theological Seminary. So far this term she has not taught, but has been a foster mother to an abused newborn baby for 3 months, and participated in Women's Bible Study Fellowship. She frequently spends time visiting and encouraging her Nigerian friends like Victoria.



Here are some key prayer needs to focus on:

- ✓ Pray for continued *peace*. The country is widely known as a potential hot-spot. The newly-elected president is a committed Christian who is trying to bring the country back to some moral values. Right now tension between religious factions is running high, and there is the real possibility of severe unrest. Armed bandits are a constant threat on the highways.
- ✓ The ability to acquire *equipment, supplies and medicines* for the hospital and community health program. Not only are they expensive, but bureaucracy and logistic problems often make them difficult to obtain.
- ✓ Consistency and growth in our *spiritual disciplines*. It's just as hard for us to drag ourselves out of bed for prayer or Bible study as it is for you!
- ✓ Building close *relationships* with the Nigerian colleagues with whom we work and worship.
- ✓ *Our kids*. It's hard to be a parent from 7000 miles away. Jonathan is in college in San Diego; Lisa is getting married Jan. 8 and moving to Illinois; Saralynn graduates in June and will return to the US for college while we stay a while longer in Jos.

See updated information, stories and prayer needs on our web site at [missionary.sim.org/blyth](http://missionary.sim.org/blyth).

Blyths Online

***Thanks so much for being our partners ...  
you channel God's provision to us and make it  
possible for us to be here!***