

## **REPORT from BEATRICE**

### **JUNE 2017**

#### **GWEIMEN MID-YEAR REPORT**

In April Gweimen had a special visit from The Children Empowerment Foundation, Abuja. They presented gifts of school materials to the children. Gweimen looks forward to more collaborative activities with the Foundation.

#### **Departmental Updates:**

##### **Health/Clinic Department**

Gweimen was blessed with a donation of large quantity of different medication by Mrs. Rahab I. Ankuma, a medical personnel with the government. Our widows, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), and staff are all benefiting from the drugs through the services of our clinic. Which such large quantity of meds at our disposal, we decided to go on medical visitation to some Districts.

##### **Medical Outreaches**

After the Easter holidays, we embarked on outreach to the Districts of Ankung and Sambam. We had good support and cooperation of the local government and village officials. Health talks were given by the Gweimen Center nurse. The children who came along with their mothers received small gifts. The nurse talked to them about environmental sanitation, common ailments affecting children during the raining season and how to prevent them, and how to purify their drinking water. General testing of HIV, malaria and blood pressure were done on those who needed such services. Medications were administered to those who needed them. Gweimen ministered to a total of 212 widows in just three weeks!

At Angwal, we met a widow who had lost 4 children and her husband. She has two living children, 9 and 1 year old. She was very sick from malaria and typhoid fever and also suffered from depression. The village had given up on her and was waiting for her to die. No one in the village would take her to the hospital because they saw her as a mad woman who talked throughout the night. When we got to the house, we found she had not slept nor eaten for a whole week. The children were looking pale and seriously malnourished. We rushed her and the children to the ECWA Comprehensive Clinic in Kwoi where she and her children were tested and kept overnight. They all had malaria and typhoid fever. The older son was additionally diagnosed with bilharzias (a water borne disease). They were all treated and discharged the

following day. The Centre nurse has been visiting them at home to make sure they are taking their medications as prescribed. Food items were given to her and this will be ongoing until she is well enough to provide for herself. I visited her on Thursday and could not believe the transformation! She is doing much better. I met a supposedly "mad woman" cooking lunch for her children. She proudly told me that she'd made breakfast for her children. When she saw us, she stated singing and praising the Lord. She knelt down and kept thanking us for what we have done and doing for her. Her nine year old son who could not walk the first day we went to the house, was doing well and playing in the neighbor's house. The whole village now thinks that Gweimen Centre is a "miracle worker." The story is making the rounds in nearby villages. We are very excited and give God the glory. This is what Gweimen is all about - to bring succor to those who need it the most. Praise God!!

## **Bakery**

Our graduates of Gweimen vocational training programs and some of the cooks are doing well. They've gone into bread-making and are thriving. A widow in Sab-Zuro District is so successful that she now purchases flour by the sack and has people lining up to purchase her bread on a daily basis. Our two illustrious cooks Gloria Peter and Hassana Elisha have gone into the business through observing her success.

We interviewed our current vocational students on how they got to know about us and what people are saying about Gweimen. They said they were recommended by Mary Bulus and Mary Leo, former students of the Vocational Unit, who told them to come to Gweimen Centre that it is a place where widows learn sewing, baking and other life skills.

We are recommending that at the next Christmas celebration, we honor these widows by giving them an award for doing such a wonderful job with the skills they learned at the Centre.