



Dear Friends and Family,

It has been quite a month around the McConnell Home with many blessings and yet some sad departures. As the children headed off for their home visits, three of the five who visited family members ended up staying with their families. Our goal is to reunite children with their families, right? It just seems that "we" always have "our" time frame, but God is the one that matters, and He saw fit that Marlee, Abida and Abina reside with their families. Marlee had been with us for quite some time and has God's truth planted in her. Please pray with us that her choices at home will reflect this.



We Love Our New Basketball Hoop

Abida and Abina learned a great deal for a short time while in our home. Please pray they will continue that desire and choose friends who will help them in their pursuit of godliness. This is a never ending goal for all of us, so pray for these three individuals and for us as a family, that godliness will be our daily ultimate goal!

Many children were able to attend camp, much due to the generosity of our supporters! We were able to see the excitement as the children packed and then heard the many stories the children had when they returned home. God was, as He always is, very active in the kids' lives. Kuku and Bailley were able to attend a second week of camp. It was a reduced price the second week, and they wanted to spend their own savings on this--what a great investment! As always, please pray that the kids will have the same fire and desire to continue their excitement in learning more about our Creator as they live day to day. Camp can be a great awakening, but putting our faith into practice when we return home to our daily routine, seems tough sometimes.

We have had some want to go pick out specific devotionals so they can continue their "God and me time." They have even asked for a time set aside for them to be able to do it. Now you are probably wondering what in the world are those houseparents teaching those children, if they just *NOW* want to do personal devotions? We had that same thought as they came home and had these requests, because we have talked and taught through personal devotional time since day one! Isn't it great when we can see the Holy Spirit working in a child's life? Isn't it great when we can see God's timing and not depend on our own time line? This is the case. We do want the kids to have time set aside to learn about our awesome God. However, we cannot make them read, comprehend, or desire to take that time out of their day unless they want it. Hearing some say they want to find that time, is great. Some, including us as parents, just have to be shown where we waste time and also understand that God has to be a first thought, not an afterthought in the day.

As camp was a blessing, so was the gift of a basketball hoop. We are very thankful for a family who saw our family shooting hoops often, and took our family to Dick's Sporting Goods to show us the new model they were going to purchase for us. We were able to dig out the concrete from the hoop Rob put up nine years ago, using pieces from old hoops, poles and backboards. The kids dug and dug until they had a four foot deep hole to be able to pour enough cement to hold the new hoop. What a fun memory for the kids and also a lesson in patience, as it took four days for the concrete to dry. Each day, the kids would come out and say, "It's dry." The external surface was dry, but the deep cement was not yet set. The hoop has not gone a day without a basket being shot through it. What a great gift!



Getting the Cement Ready

Another blessing to our home was a work group that came, remodeled some bathrooms and put a new floor in our foyer. They worked hard and put in some long days. It was a little hard getting to know them in the "work" setting, but we were able to talk and express our appreciation to them for all their hard work at a cook out. The kids played and were able to see the hands behind our wonderful new remodels. Thank you Community Bible Church from Indiana, we appreciate your support!



Work Group Working on the Floor in the Foyer

Please pray as we are seeing the summer fly by, and our time with the children will be decreased by the school routine. It will come sooner than we think. Please also pray as we continue to seek sponsors for our upcoming, yearly bike-a-thon. It will be held August 8. The kids are already asking Uncle Rob when he will put the "special grease" on their chains for the 25 miles they will ride!

Thank you for all the support,

*Rob and Tori McConnell*

Alexis (16), Kuku (15), Bailley (15), Emmanuel (15), Cammie (14), Desiree' (12), Avante (12), Jeremiah (9), Dejha (6), Jaquez (5)