

GRACE'S PLACE

A safe haven for female victims of domestic violence

A Designer Woman Initiative



From the Designer Women's Desk

By Debola Oni

Thank God Almighty for His faithfulness on all sides. We certainly cannot tell it all, He has been so good to us. Here's also a big shout out to all our friends and partners. Thank you for all you do. We continue to pray for you and yours. It's been a while since our first newsletter but God continues to sustain us through HIS work.

Apart from verbal thanks another way of showing appreciation is actually doing the work and appropriately utilizing your donations for the purpose you have given. That's one of the reasons for this newsletter, to update you with what's been happening.

For over a year now we have been in the middle of a pandemic and a pandemic of domestic violence within that pandemic. Even though social restrictions are being loosened hot lines are still

constantly ringing. There are simply not enough Shelters to meet the rising needs but at Grace's Place we are trying our best. One of the major challenges we still have is the waiting period before and after a survivor gets the result for their Covid Test. Fortunately, another NGO has been able to come up with the Rapid Response Covid Test at a highly subsidized rate. We were also fortunate to attend a seminar and are now operating standardized protocols for Covid prevention in our shelter such as the purchase and utilization of a digital thermometer.

With God's help and yours we have been able to survive one of the worst years in recent human history. Looking back we remember one of the major challenges we faced was shopping for food and other necessities as the markets and shops were in lockdown. There was also the challenge of getting the purchased stuff to the Shelter but we got round this by photocopying our certificate of registration from Women and Poverty Alleviation Ministry as evidence that we were an essential service provider. God was faithful as the women in the Shelter never lacked during this period. Twice God also

sent provision through DSVRT, and Isodokan Foundation, apart from your generous donations.

With God's help and yours we look forward to greater strides in the months ahead.



What's New?

- 1 January 2021**
- 2 February 2021**
- 3 March 2021**

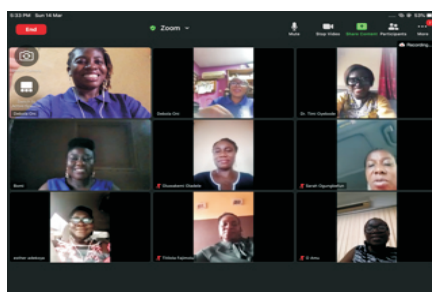


This edition of our newsletter depicts highlights of our activities for the first quarter of 2021 from January to March. We trust it will help you to appreciate the scourge of domestic violence and perhaps be encouraged to get involved at any level.



We continued to broadcast our weekly radio program, the Designer Women (based on Psalm 139:14) on Women Radio, 91.7FM where we explored topics ranging from domestic violence and other issues to mental and emotional health from a Biblical stand point.

Grace's Place appreciated the marketing team Hayat Kimya Nigeria and the Octoplus marketing team for the cartons of diapers donated to the Nursing mothers in the shelter. We attended a One Day Convening on COVID -19 Protocols and Sexual & Gender Based Violence, for Shelter's in Nigeria in February 2021 organised by Project Alert. As a result of this we heightened our enforcement of existing protocols by purchasing a digital thermometer and training our shelter matron on how to use it. We continued our Biblical counseling in and outside the Shelter and used social media platforms to increase awareness of the importance of emotional and mental health and the dangers of domestic violence.



We successfully reunited Survivor A and her 5 month old baby with her husband/ release from the shelter.

We welcomed Survivor B who was abandoned by her partner after years of domestic violence. Soon after this Survivor C and her four children were admitted into the shelter with all protocols observed.

On the 10th March 2021, we launched our first series of Designer Women Podcasts on SoundCloud and Anchor FM by Spotify, all aimed at improving the mental and emotional health of women.

On the 25th of March 2021, our Mrs. Debola Oni featured as a guest speaker on a webinar organised by the Nigeria Network of Women's Shelters (a member of Global and Africa Networks of Women's Shelters). The webinar was on the topic: "Women Leadership In Post COVID-ERA: Tackling the increasing incidences of Violence and Homelessness through Technology." We were able to highlight the paucity of shelters in Nigeria and the need to fund the existing Shelters.

Also in March 2021, we were aired on WAPA HALF HOUR on Radio Lagos for 2 episodes - The importance of Women s' Mental health and the Scourge of Suicide. Several calls were received for counseling in the days following the programs particularly in the area of domestic violence showing the need for more support in these areas.

Throughout the first quarter we continue to counsel and pray with victims of domestic violence. We also focused on enhancing our relationship with other NGO's and ministries in this space.

"Addressing Gender-Based Violence in a responsible and respectful manner, that both affirms the survivors and condemns the actions of the perpetrators, is the call of the Church. We cannot remain silent; indeed we are called to act!"

- Tamar Campaign



For counseling and shelter please call : 09080777714

We counsel cases which do not escalate to Shelter.

Donate Now

Iwe admitted Survivor A and her 5month old daughter who were referred to our shelter with severe injuries to her face and body from her husband. She was fortunate that there was no internal damage to her eyes. She had to escape for her dear life in the middle of the night and for days had been sleeping in a church with her baby with only the clothes on her back and no food. Luckily the baby was being breast fed but by the time she was admitted into the shelter there were all sorts of insect bites all over her.

It is always the survivors' decision to separate or return to their homes. We counseled Survivor A of the pros and cons and she opted to go back. After mediating between her husband and her they were eventually referred to a psychologist for still further counseling. She eventually returned to her life after her husband signed an undertaking not to abuse her any longer. We were also able to give her a financial gift to resuscitate her business. Even though she has left the Shelter we still keep in touch and so far so good, there's been no violence since she went back.