

UGANDA MINISTRY & MEDICAL MISSIONS
OCTOBER 9-25, 2008



Dear *Min Nancy & Min Shirley,*

"I want to thank you for your prayers and financial support. It sincerely meant much more to me than I can adequately express in words. Together we have made a tremendous difference in the lives of the children, women and men of Uganda. What you have done is a beautiful reminder of the inherent goodness in the human spirit that gives us hope for a brighter future." Your support has helped to make our world an even better place to live. We are all sincerely grateful and appreciative for all you have done to make this outreach possible. This is the short version of my experience. I hope you enjoy it.

Thank You,
Dories

I have wanted to go to Africa as part of a mission's trip for years and after about 30+ hours of travel I arrived at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda! Then went to our hotel in Kampala, some of our team members experienced jet lag, I fortunately did not. Team Members are Pastor Sharon (Pastor of Resurrection Life Church, Minnesota and Mission's Organizer) and her church members Nola, Holly RN, Donna, Ronna RN, Hannah RN, Jessica, Sherry, Pastor Maddaline (Assistant Pastor of Faith Center Church, Connecticut) and Dories French RN (Co-Pastor Gospel Tabernacle Ministries, Connecticut).

The medical team met with two Uganda nurses to plan and shop for medicine at a pharmacy in Kampala for the clinics. Our first clinic was at The Zzana Miracle Center, home church of two Ugandan students currently living with Pastor Sharon in Minnesota and attending college there.

We jam packed miles of long arduous travel over bumpy, rutted roads (Entebbe, Kampala, Jinja, Mubende, Mityana, Gulu, and Paraa) a boat and ferry ride on the Nile, five cities of ministry, seven medical clinics, a pastors conference, a women's conference, five different Sunday church services, an outdoor evangelistic crusade in a field with 5000 in attendance, visits to several ministries such as Home Again Orphanage (started by David & Aimee son-in-law and daughter of Pastor Sharon for 45 street boys) and land that was donated to the orphanage for a future medical clinic, school and church, we sang and prayed on the property which was located just pass the Rain Forest. We visited Mildmay AIDS/HIV Center, Gulu Redeemed Boxing Gym, several hospitals and many Ugandan families.

We presented forty pastors in Mubende bicycles with pumps and repair kits. We gave rice and beans to families in Gulu..

The Gulu clinic was outdoors under some shade trees and definitely "rustic." Over 2500 people were treated at the clinics with the assistance of Uganda doctors, a Nurse Midwife, one APRN and RN's. The largest percentage was treated for malaria, followed by parasites, pain and wounds. Our days usually started around 5:00am and clinics were 10am - 4pm, sometimes without lunch breaks (just protein bars, water and soda). The lines were long and the people stood in the hot sun, some for hours to be served. Our pharmacy had to be set up daily.

The people were very patient and were so grateful to receive their prescriptions. We donated the remaining medication to the hospital in Gulu and Home Again Orphanage. We turned away many because we could not function in the dark. Most of our travel was before sundown. The darkness is VERY dark so we intentionally tried not to be on the roads at night due to Rebels, Al Qaeda and Wild Animals. We also encountered routine police checks. One night our car hit a bat and a hyena. We drove pass an accident that same night where four Ugandan ladies died when their car hit and killed some cows.

I basically ate a total carbohydrate diet, rice & beans, fried plantains, fried potatoes, boiled sweet potatoes, bananas, pineapples, goat soup, and vegetables. Every day we had to gauge how much to drink and eat because you just don't know when or IF you will be able to find a toilet that was not in the ground. You learn to thank God for many small luxuries like electricity and hot water on the mission field!

We saw lots of disease, poverty and homelessness. In the country and villages many people live in huts including about 45,000 people from the Acholi tribe live in IDP's camps (Internally displaced persons) outside Gulu. Most of the time we had no internet, no phone, indoor plumbing at hotels only, no AC in some, some had a fan, all had mosquito nets and sometimes no electricity. If you requested something you were told "Five minutes" a phrase but that meant anywhere from twenty minutes to an hour. Our phrase was "TIA" (This is Africa)!!

We went to bed to the sounds of bats and wild animals crying from outside our windows. We saw monkeys, baboons, cheetahs, giraffe, elephants, hippo, antelopes, crocodiles, exotic birds, hyenas, wart hogs and water buffalo most of them from our car windows. This was an adventure in it self, not to mention being bitten by tsetse flies.

These blessings were possible because you gave and we went. Thanks so much to everyone who has supported this outreach. Only the Lord knows the rewards that are yours for your generosity. This was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done and if given the opportunity I would do it all again.