

*Showing God's character to the world by bringing healing to bodies and souls*

## Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission

Volume 2, Issue 10  
December 10, 2007

### USMM Coming Events

December 3-13

Gulu Medical School

December 15

Yusef's marriage introduction ceremony

December 19-30

Home in Goli for Christmas

January 6-22

Kakuma refugee camp  
NW Kenya



*Poinsettia bush outside the latrine at my home in Goli*

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## All I Wanted For Christmas

All I wanted for Christmas this year was a medical mission trip. I told God it should be a team of African healthcare workers reaching out to other Africans in need. It should show God's character to the world by bringing healing to bodies and souls. It should provide the healthcare workers with a taste of mission and some insight into God's call on their lives. It should make these healthcare workers hungry for more. It should teach me some key lessons about how to do medical missions in Uganda and Sudan.

The medical mission to Awach IDP camp outside Gulu, Uganda was short, simple, and very sweet. We left on a Friday, worked on Saturday, and returned on Sunday to our homes (and work on Monday).

The healthcare team included: Annet Alum (a registered nurse/midwife), Manasseh Lubre (laboratory technician), Robin Pikwo (ministry partner), and me. We presented the rationale for mission to our home church, St. Stephens in Goli, introduced our team and were commissioned for ministry by the Bishop. Each team member was asked to recruit prayer support and financial support. Financial support is a bit tricky as the usual practice has been for missionaries to pay team members to go on mission! Each team member was asked to raise money and prayer support to allow others the privilege of participating in mission. I set a goal of a total of \$25 for all three team members. I asked God to surprise them by doubling that amount. God surprised me by blessing us with \$75...triple the amount of the goal. God is so good.

Our team training and bonding took place on the day we gathered for travel. We meet to discuss mission in the Bible over tea at my house. We then began our four hour journey to Gulu. En route we shared our testimonies and expectations. After a short rest in Gulu we studied servanthood, cross cultural challenges, and spiritual warfare. Prayer and singing were ongoing activities during the mission.



*Annet and her new friend Frankee*

Awach Healthcentre is a hospital in the midst of several IDP camps. It should have 50 staff members, but only has 12 (on a good day when everyone shows up to work). The catchment area is over 100,000, but the hospital has only 33 beds.

During the medical mission, we worked at the hospital alongside the existing staff to make rounds, deliver babies, do a few simple procedures, share some medications and IV fluids. The patients were eager to have us pray with them and for them.

Leaders from the local church came to talk and share with patients. A part of all this action was Chris Bwami (see newsletter 16) and his team of translators. We shared some meals with the healthcare staff and encouraged them. We attended a small church to worship God among the people. The healthcare team prayerfully decided to give all the money they raised to this new church in the camp.

The decision to share the money with the church at Awach IDP camp came during the healthcare team debriefing (held on the journey home). The debriefing also revealed a bit of what God had shown each person. One team member saw how God had organized the mission to bring together specific patients and healthcare workers for His healing purposes. Another team member said that he had never realized that God could use his skills for kingdom work. It was as if this team member had opened the door in his life labeled mission and peeked inside. I had the sense that he liked what he saw and would come back to look behind that door again!

*God is good...all the time...*

He gave me everything I asked for this Christmas and more. I got a medical mission trip...and He gave me each of you as partners in prayer, financial support, and home team support. May God answer all your prayers this Christmas!

*...all the time...God is good...*

*...it is His nature.*



*Children in IDP camp church*