

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

Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission

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USMM Coming Events

January 29– March 2
Gulu Medical School

March 2-6

SOMA Retreat

March 15-16

Medical Mission to
Adusi

April 14-May 24

Gulu Medical School

May 25-28

Medical Student Mis-
sion to Awach??



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Answers to the Cries of My Heart

"I am really longing to see my friends in Kakuma, Lord." That was my cry to the Lord as I changed my airline ticket to Nairobi yet again in the wake of the post-election violence in Kenya. Politics, tribalism, and poverty combined to ignite riots and mayhem throughout Kenya. Almost 1000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. My Kenyan friends have a haunted look in their eyes as they struggle with the upheaval of their lives. The USA team for the Kakuma trip wisely put their travel on hold. God made the way for the remnant team (Reverend John Daa, Martin Olando, and me) to travel in and out of Nairobi during times of quiet. The days we spent in Nairobi were truly the *only* days of relative calm. During our time in Kakuma, the news was alight with reports of shocking violence in other areas of Kenya. Thank you for your prayers for journey mercies!

Our team of three was bound together like a cord. Martin is a masters student in theology researching bride price and marriage customs of the Jieng (Dinka) in light of scripture. We learned four ways Jieng can become married and their views on bride price and polygamy. What a privilege to be among the Jieng as they seek to apply scripture to their lives. We prayed and planned for the teachings at the conference for clergy and sermons at various churches in the camp. We learned to speak more Jieng and to dance with the youth to songs of worship. And we counted pills-- thousands and thousands of pills (over 18,000) to treat conference participants for various ailments. When I wasn't teaching at the conference, I moved outside to practice medicine under a tree. Theology and medical practice among friends...does life get any better??

Smaller team meant smaller budget which changed some aspects of our trip, like our transport in and out of the camp. Try to get this visual image in your mind: me wearing a long dress, sitting side-saddle on the back wheel of a bicycle (you heard me...back wheel), carrying a back pack loaded with heavy medicines, holding on for dear life in the rain for 30 minutes each way. Better still, John and Martin were doing the same (except the dress stuff) talking on their phones! Sadly I could not get to the camera as my hands were occupied (see above). But God can use anything. One of our many boda boda drivers



(term for the very strong Turkana bicyclists that ferried us around) was a pastor to a Turkana church near the camp. We were able to talk with him, encourage him, pray with him and treat him for anemia. How he was able to pedal the bicycle with a loaded down passenger on rough hilly roads with a hemoglobin of about 6 or 7 is a mystery to me! Turkana are the nomadic Kenyan tribe living in the area of Kakuma refugee camp. We also met a Turkana working as a missionary in Kakuma town through a Christian fellowship we joined in the UN compound. Until somewhat recently the Turkana were considered unreached (without a known church). It was very fun to see how God is working throughout the northwest region of Kenya.

Perhaps the sweetest experience of the trip was the brief time spent with the Thiec Nyallic (Ask God) Prayer Army. As we joined together in "listening prayer," God poured out His Holy Spirit on these women in powerful ways, ministering specifically to their needs. It was such a privilege to be in the midst of God at work. It brought to mind Terry Butler's song:

*It is the cry of my heart to follow You,
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You;
It is the cry of my heart to follow You
all of the days of my life...*

*Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord, so I can walk
in Your truth; teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
and make me wholly devoted to You.*

*Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things
that You do; open my heart up more and more
and make it wholly devoted to You.*

**May you be wholly devoted to the Lord and
may He richly bless you!**