

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

March 15-16

Medical Mission to
Adusi

April 14-May 24

Gulu Medical School

May 24-28

Medical Student Mis-
sion to Awach

June 1-20

Home visit



Reverend Daniel's wife,
Nora in church at Adusi
on Palm Sunday.

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The Least, the Last, and the Lost

When Bishop Alphonse asked me to go see a pastor's wife confined to home by illness, I did not hesitate to say yes. I asked about the nature of her health problem so I could prepare my medical kit. Then he said they lived in Adusi. "How far away is that?", I asked. "Oh, about 2-3 hours depending on the roads" he replied. The first round trip took close to six hours.

Adusi has been the site of a recent conflict between the Lendu and their Congolese counterparts. (The majority tribe in Nebbi are the Alur. Other tribes include the Lendu, Kebu, and Madi.) Adusi is in the most rural part of Nebbi District, on the border with Congo. It is very far from centers of commerce and the phone network is rarely available. Milk, soap, and kerosene are rare luxuries. The government of Uganda and the Christians of Nebbi have worked hard to bring an end to the fighting and to effect reconciliation among the people. Jesus Christ as the eminent example of God's desire to reconcile Himself to man is producing some fruit among the Lendu.

"So, one visit and we're done with this place," I said to myself. God however had other plans. Reverend Daniel and his wife, Nora, are thoughtful, kind Christians working under difficult circumstances in this remote place. God nudged me to ask some more questions. The next thing I knew we were visiting the nearest healthcentre (30 minutes by car) and talking with the staff about a medical mission. We agreed to recruit medical team members from our local healthcentre in Goli. Reverend Daniel would mobilize the Christian community for prayer and outreach during the event. Our team would focus on training the medical personnel in Adusi (the most senior is a "nurse" with a few years of training beyond high school), treating patients, and sharing our faith with patients and staff through health

talks and prayer. The mission was set for the weekend of Palm Sunday.

We served alongside the staff at the healthcentre and saw over 200 people in one day. Many of these patients had never been to a healthcentre before. Their only healthcare came in the form of local herbal remedies. The infant mortality and life expectancy rates in this area are staggering. Every time we visit the area we see one or more funerals in progress.

The humility of Jesus, the king who came to serve the least, the last, and the lost, was a theme for our team. We studied servanthood in the Bible and practiced what we learned. This team really demonstrated caring for one another and for others. The most senior male team member cleaned all the other men's shoes before church on Sunday morning! One team member's commented that now he prays for other people and their needs, not just his own needs. What I didn't realize until some time after the medical mission was the view of other Nebbites toward the Lendu. Team members explained to me that the Lendu "are despised." I gradual began to understand that they were viewed as ignorant, backward, and superstitious people whom others shunned. They are the "least, the last, and the lost" of Nebbi District. How fitting that God should orchestrate a medical mission to such a place, especially on Palm Sunday. Jesus, who humbly entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, "made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross...that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:6-11). God will do *anything* to reach the least, the last, and the lost. We will make our fifth visit to Adusi next week, but I don't think that God is finished with His work among the Lendu.

Meeting the Bishops in Juba, Southern Sudan

February 14-16 found us in Juba attending the emergency synod for the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). The main business of the synod was the election of a new Archbishop. Through the amazing hand of God at work among the convention delegates, Rt. Reverend Daniel Deng Bul, from the Diocese of Renk was elected on the first ballot after the other nominees gave over their votes. USMM was honored to be recognized by the Acting Archbishop, Rt. Reverend Nathaniel Garang. We had the opportunity to meet and develop connections with many of the 23 bishops, diocesan delegates, and provincial staff present. God was busy opening many doors to USMM