

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

# Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission

Volume 3, Issue 3  
April 30, 2008

## USMM Coming Events

April 14-May 24  
Gulu Medical School  
April 20  
Enthronement of ECS  
Archbishop  
in Juba  
May 25-28  
Medical Student Mis-  
sion to Awach IDPs  
May 30-June 20  
Visit America



*Children in IDP camp  
near Gulu*

**Katie Rhoads, MD**  
medical missionary  
to Uganda & Sudan

**Global Teams:**

[www.global-teams.org](http://www.global-teams.org)

**Christ Church:**

[www.christchurch-op.org](http://www.christchurch-op.org)

**Website:**

[www.ugandasudanmedicalmission.org](http://www.ugandasudanmedicalmission.org)

**Email:**

[kacrhoads@yahoo.com](mailto:kacrhoads@yahoo.com)

913-226-1010

## Back to Medical School

"I hope you know all that stuff." The comment was directed toward me by an American visiting Uganda who saw me reading Principles and Practice of Surgery, the text used by Gulu Medical School. I explained my need to ferret out the core of surgical knowledge that is important to teach in a facility that lacks modern technology, basic medications and supplies and has few trained personnel to assist the medical students in learning essential surgical skills.

So why am I back in medical school? As a part of our scouting missions to discover what God is doing among healthcare workers, Robin and I visited each of the Ugandan medical schools. We looked for Christian fellowship groups and Christian medical leaders to interview. It was Gulu Medical School that drew us in. So for now I am serving about half time as Visiting Lecturer in Surgery. I work as a "Surgical Consultant" at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital. Of course, my real job is looking for "Timothys" among the healthcare workers and students. And there is gold to mine in these parts! The stories of "Timothys" discovered and how God has made them known will fill many future newsletters.

For today, let me just share a bit about the atmosphere among the patients and personnel. Each day I met many new patients in the outpatient clinic or on the wards. The story they tell of their health problem is always extensive. When I am able to get the translator to

tell me the full story (not just the facts) nearly every patient's history is tied to the 20 year conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Many patients have long standing injuries that have never received any medical attention. Some were trapped in villages, unable to come out for fear of the LRA. Others spent time "in the bush." These are the code words for being abducted by the LRA to serve as child soldiers or "wives." Ojok Vincent is 15. He lived in Lira (3 hours south of Gulu) until age 12 when his family was killed and he was abducted in an LRA raid. During combat with Ugandan army (UPDF) troops he was shot in the right thigh. He never received medical care for this injury. As a result he has had a chronic infection in the poorly healed bone. He drags his leg behind him as he walks. He stays in Gulu as there is no family alive to take him in. A UDFP soldier came to the clinic for care. He appears very young. When questioned about his age, he is unsure. He was abducted by the LRA as a young child and stayed in the bush for 13 years. When he escaped he found it difficult to live among civilians and requested to join the Ugandan military. Okello Betty Openy is in her third year at Gulu Medical School. You may have seen or heard her during her travels in America telling her story of living as an abductee among the LRA. The scourge of the LRA is omnipresent here and it will not soon be removed from northern Uganda or its people.

## "Lord, show me what you are doing in Gulu"

The first time we visited Gulu Medical School in July, 2007 I saw a notice about a "Medical Student Fellowship" activity. When we returned in August, October, and December I looked for other evidence of this group but could find nothing. By February 2, I was desperate. For some years I have daily prayed that God would show me what He is doing so I can follow Him (c.f. John 5:19). When I tried to return a library book on Saturday February 2, I heard singing in one of the classrooms. It was a group of students worshipping. I asked who the group was...the Medical Student Fellowship, of course! This group evolved four years ago when the school was birthed. About 15% of the student body participates. They have no pastoral supervision. Of their own initiative they raised money to purchase a sound system so they could do evangelism in surrounding areas. They really want to do medical mission work, but they need supervision and access to medications and supplies. Hmmmm, what does God want me to do??? Why not organize a medical mission to Awach Healthcentre IV (hospital) in the midst of several IDP camps 30 minutes from Gulu town? Stay tuned for the full report. In the midst of much spiritual darkness in Gulu and northern Uganda, these students are the light of the world, salt among the saltless (c.f. Matthew 5:13-16). Please pray for these potential "Timothys" as they pursue their call from God.