

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

Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission

Volume 4, Issue 2
April, 2009

USMM Coming Events

April 6-15

Celebrate a reconciliation event and Easter in Bor, Sudan

May

Gulu Medical School

June

Medical Mission to

Awach, Uganda

HIV teaching for

clergy in Torit, Sudan

Visit to Kansas City



Demonstrating to medical students how to scrub for surgery

Katie Rhoads, MD
medical missionary
to Uganda & Sudan

Global Teams:

www.global-teams.org

Christ Church:

www.christchurch-op.org

Website:

www.ugandasudanmedicalmission.org

Email:

kacrhoads@yahoo.com

913-226-1010

Satisfying hunger

Yesterday I was told that two children in Goli were killed. The owner of a small plot of land killed the children because they were stealing his crops. The children were stealing the food because they were starving. You see, the rains have delayed. Much of the food from our region is now taken by traders to Sudan where they can get higher prices. In turn, the prices here have increased by one-third to one-half. Many people are living on the edge. Today I bought large sacks of rice and beans to give to the church to distribute to those in need. Children should not be hungry and children should not die because of food.

It was God who prompted me to buy the food. As I discussed the problem of hunger with God, He showed me that the work of Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission is to satisfy hunger. God pointed out that there are many kinds of hunger: hunger for food, hunger for learning, hunger for health, and hunger for God. While USMM cannot feed everyone, God has called us to feed those to whom He directs. You are essential partners in this task.

Hunger for learning is approached through sharing surgical skills and spiritual skills with healthcare workers. The teaching at Gulu Medical School is an key component of satisfying this appetite. Recently we began distributing a two volume set of surgical texts, Primary Surgery, to each class of medical students.

This text is an incredible resource for work in settings with fewer resources. It will serve them throughout their careers and bolster the surgical care in the places they work, benefiting thousands of people over time. Supporting some students financially as they complete their studies also addresses this hunger for learning and benefits many patients over time.



Teaching chest tube insertion in the chest wall of a goat

Hunger for health is addressed on several fronts. Medical equipment, such as surgical instrument sets, give long lasting aid. Gifts of medical supplies and medications support facilities to provide health care. Providing surgical and medical care is done in many settings: at Gulu Referral Hospital, in smaller health centers (such as Cwero and Paicho near Gulu where we target patients with wounds and ulcers), and medical mission large and small. Some days we work in hospital or clinic buildings; other days are spent under a tree seeing patients.

Hunger for God is the foundation of all other hungers. Hunger for food, learning, and health may be the primary reason people come to the attention of USMM, however, this hunger for God is attended to as their deepest need. It manifests itself in prayer for patients, joining medical students in fellowship, providing local language Bibles to new believers, teaching healthcare workers, clergy, and lay leaders about God, health and mission. It is also seen in the actual medical missions as the "missionaries", sending and receiving communities, and patients gather to see God's character shown forth through healing. We are taking people to places they have never been, both physically and spiritually. Working with people as they express and satisfy their hunger for God in discipleship is what I cherish most in this ministry; it is so very precious.



Children in Diocese of Cueibet, Sudan

Satisfying hunger is the work of Uganda/Sudan Medical Mission. It is the work of God given to you and me to fulfill. We travel great distances to bring the medicines and equipment, the Bibles and the books, and food to the people to whom God directs. We share what we have known of God with them and watch God work in their lives. Through prayer, financial and material gifts, you show forth God's character to people in Uganda and Sudan. What a privilege to serve God with you in this way!