

As men sent from God!

In 2 Corinthians 2:17, Paul declares: “Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.” [NIV]. When teams from Adonai Partners show up in remote communities in Africa to offer words of hope, love and encouragement; and to meet practical needs at no charge and in ways that don’t take away the people’s dignity, the response we get is almost always the same. The looks on their faces reveal that these are people sent from God. Some have even said this to us.

Knowing that we are sent from God compels us to examine what we do and how we do it as we seek to serve with sincerity. Our goal is to make a difference where it counts the most. This requires being selective, focusing on areas of greatest need. In some situations, this could mean we’re the only help available! We serve with total dependence on God trusting Him to use our limited resources and imperfection to bring about His glory as people see His love displayed by the good we do.



Dr. Fisayo Olufemi

How we serve is even more important. We are careful to avoid the many pitfalls of helping the poor, not the least the risk of taking away their dignity in an attempt to lend a helping hand. So we work with people on the ground – people who are equally committed to honoring our Lord by serving those He loves. We’re not interested in simply handing out “free” materials but in building enduring relationships even when this is much

harder to do. This is the beauty of the Incarnation that produces community transformation. Our Lord came in human form and moved into the neighborhood to show the Father’s face and they saw “the glory of the one and only begotten who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” [John 1:14] It was a privilege to be His hands extended in Dino providing medical care and feeding and teaching vulnerable children.



When one of our team members, Fisayo Olufemi, a physician from Nigeria, arrived Dino last July her question was “why wasn’t I born in Dino?” She was struck by the conditions of the people. Dino is a community in Gulu district that was severely affected by the long drawn out war with rebels in northern Uganda. Fisayo was one of three medical doctors on our team that attended to well over a thousand patients. Serving such a large number of people within three days was exhausting to the whole team but it was well worth it.

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Fisayo said one of her goals at the outset of the trip was to minister to the people, touching their lives one by one with “heavenly grace” and that by the end of the outreach she had abundant proof of this. Continuing her reflections, she recalls the recurring theme of our devotional time together: the remarkable compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ, particularly that:

- Jesus touched the leper! [Matt. 8:3]
- Jesus saw the multitudes and was “moved with compassion for them for their problems were so great and they didn’t know what to do or where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd”. [Matt. 9:36]
- Jesus was often met with antagonism from the skeptic Pharisees and was “deeply disturbed at the hardness of their hearts”. [Mark 3:5]

Reflecting on the trip, Dr. Olufemi noted,

The Widow’s Oil

In the days immediately following the departure of Elijah, God empowered Elisha to perform a number of miracles. One of them was the increase of oil for a poor widow (see 2 Kings 4:1-7). This miracle confirmed Elisha as a true prophet of God and the successor to Elijah. In fact, the increase of oil recalled the miracle that Elijah performed for the widow of Zarephat (1 Kings 17:8-16). But in addition to what the miracle revealed about Elisha, it illustrated an important aspect of God’s character: **His concern for the poor and disadvantaged**. Both Elijah and Elisha dealt with kings, commanders, and other powerful leaders. But they also helped the powerless. In this case, the widow was about to lose her two sons to pay for a debt left by her late husband. That meant that she would be left with no means of support. God provided for her needs through the intervention of Elisha (see also Psalms 68:5).

In the New Testament, James reminds us that true religion involves action, such as caring for “widows in their trouble” (James 1:27). Thus Elisha was a true prophet practicing true religion.

Source: Notes from Thomas Nelson’s **The Word in Life Study Bible**



"In our fallen world, particularly in the practice of medicine, it is so easy to get *all hardened up*. Often, this is a defense mechanism against the miseries one sees on an almost daily basis. There are a few joys like when a baby is born. Depending on the area of specialization, the miseries experienced often outweigh the joys. This is more so in Africa. How do you inform a poor, helpless woman like the one I saw, that 'you have scarring alopecia' and, 'It's an auto-immune disease'? Or that, 'There is no physical hope for a medical cure'? The only hope comes from knowing that Jesus heals! (Psalm 103:3) but, what if that doesn't happen? Well, Jesus saves (Hebrews 7:25) because if the ailment results in eventual physical death, there is the promise of eternal life to all who trust in Jesus. The soul would be saved from eternal death.

"While in Uganda, it dawned on me, again, with a renewed intensity, that as a believer in Jesus, and further more, as a physician, it is my responsibility to do periodic check-ups, exposing myself continually to the Words of Jesus, allowing Him to tenderize my heart. Difficult as it was, my trip to Dino afforded me another opportunity to allow this to happen. By the end of the trip I realized this: 'I did not only go to touch lives, but, my life was touched as well'.

"As noted above, I questioned myself on numerous occasions during this trip: 'but why wasn't I born in Dino? What divine lottery was responsible for the circumstance of my conception and location of my birth?' Well, the Lord reminded me of Ephesians 2:10. It is God Himself who has made me what I am and given me a new life from Jesus; and long ago He planned that I should spend this life in helping others. That's what I did in Uganda, and that's what I want to keep doing everywhere I go, by His grace. Amen."

Every summer we take teams to Africa to share the love of Jesus to a hurting world! Our vision is to see people from every ethne come into a radiant relationship with Jesus. We are committed to helping children reach their full God-given potential.

If you want to take part in our mission trip, please contact:

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