

Something to Live for

Bamidele Adebayo, a medical practitioner from Nigeria, decided to follow Jesus as Saviour and Lord thirteen years ago. He relishes missionary work and has been involved in missions both as a student and now as a physician. We're delighted to share his report from our summer mission trip. We'll continue to share more.

My decision to go to Uganda with Adonai Partners this summer followed a text message from a friend whose wife was part of the team last year. Then I had to wrestle with several challenges including getting time from work, pursuing residency, separation from family and friends or just staying back to make money instead of going abroad to spend money. In the end I found grace to affirm that nothing can separate me from the love and purpose and purpose of God..

About 1 a.m. on July 27, I stepped on Uganda soil at the Entebbe International Airport for the first time. About an hour and half later, we were in Kampala where we spent the next five days for training and preparations. The training session for team members

By Dr. Bamidele Adebayo

was a *sine qua non* for effective service. I found a new family, the 2010 team - a wonderful crop of God's people with passion to help the needy, people who have counted everything but a loss for the sake of Christ, and who chose to serve with the Master instead of being served. The pastor's conference, sandwiched between the training of team members and the medical outreach, was a remarkable event that left an indelible mark on all the participants. Serving as an usher during the conference was the most memorable part of that event to me. It was really exciting.



The main thrust of the trip was the medical outreach and the children program we held in Gulu district northern Uganda. The team comprised people from various disciplines including doctors, a dentist, nurses and students. We also had pastors, civil servants, and teachers. Dino, which is about two and half hours drive from Gulu town, was our first point of call.

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We were truly blessed reading the blog from our friend Teresa who arrived in Kampala with her family a few days ago to receive Hannah and Anita their two adopted daughters. Soon after they arrived, their younger girl Dee, really tired from the long flight from Auburn, ME to Kampala became very emotional and cried that she wanted to go home. After some consoling and a promise that "things will look better in the morning after a good night's sleep" she managed to fall asleep. Next morning she woke up without a fresh perspective as the mother had hoped. She kept saying that she wanted to go home and she didn't like it here. She didn't understand why the family had to come to Uganda. The family had a good conversation together about how difficult this was going to be for all of them. They understood that there were going to be times that they would all struggle and that they needed to be there to support each other. They discussed how God had called them to be uncomfortable for a short while so that two little girls would not have to live a life of misery. It took some time but Dee managed to pray, find something to thank God for, and turn her perspective around.

The thing is how many families out there are willing to consider if it could be God's purpose for them to go through some difficulties so that innocent children thousands of miles away would get a chance to be what God has created them to be? How many are willing to share God's redemptive love with vulnerable children? Please pray for Teresa and her family. To see more of her blog, click here:

<http://www.parenting-with-grace.blogspot.com>

Our visit on the first day was for awareness and sensitisation, followed by two days of free medical services. Besides children, we saw about 600 people from the Dino and neighbouring communities. Most of the patients were women and children, including some very elderly. Malaria, respiratory tract infection, musculoskeletal disorders, skin diseases and helminthiasis were the predominant health problems. Others were urinary tract infection, gastrointestinal tract diseases, eye diseases, dental diseases, epilepsy and a few cases that required surgery but for which we had no facilities. In one case, a woman's condition was so bad, the team provided funds for her to travel back to Gulu for surgery. The last day of the medical outreach was in Arut, 14 km from Gulu town.

This is a community of about 1,200 people without any health facility, school or even a church for the team to use. We had to operate under the shades of trees. The demographic and disease patterns were similar to that of Dino. However, the lack of potable water, educational facilities, or even a place of worship made situation here more pathetic. However, the enthusiasm with which they embraced the gospel was heart-warming,

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Dr. Adebayo left with another team member, Joseph, serving women and their children at Arut. 14 km north of Gulu town.

leading to the birth of Adonai Community Church. It's painful to discover that majority of the post pubertal girls we saw already have children of their own often with multiple fathers. Being unmarried, these young mothers are left to fend for themselves and their children.

Inadequate personnel and medications, lack of surgical equipment and facility, were some of the challenges the team had to face. Health education is also a great need.

While I was still in Uganda, some truths became more glaring to me and they include:

- Mission is expensive, requires great sacrifices and it is the collective responsibility of all God's children.
- Now is the day, when we can do the work of the Master, "the night cometh when no one can work."
- I need to take heed to myself, so that after labouring to help people get saved, I don't lose the same salvation.
- You can't do it all, but you can do something.
- God does His work, His own way and time and can use any available vessel.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to God and Adonai Partners for giving me an opportunity to be a part of the team. It was truly fulfilling, joining God and His children on the field outside my native land. I can't forget to mention the team members with whom I bonded so well. It was as if we all came from the same place, I love you all. I look forward to the summer mission trip next year.

Please pray for Barnabas Gathering, our evening of fellowship, food, and information sharing about our summer mission trip. The event will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at Hilton Garden Inn, Greenbelt, MD 6 p.m.

For more information, call [800] 334-2775 or email api@adonaipartners.org



Adonai Partners is a mission and development agency committed to sharing the love of Jesus with some of Africa's most vulnerable people. We want to see people come into a radiant relationship with Jesus. If you want to be a part of what God is doing through Adonai Partners please contact:

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