

The Oil and Wine...

By Rebecca Nambi

There are numerous references to Oil and Wine in the Bible. One of the most striking is in Luke 10:34 - in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Priest and Levite saw the man left half dead by robbers on the road to Jericho. They walked passed but the Samaritan had compassion on him. Our Lord Jesus said "He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him." In 1894, W. Spencer Walton captured this powerful image when he wrote the hymn below. As an expression of our worship to our loving Saviour, we at Adonai Partners look for ways to pour in oil and wine on the wounds of many who are wounded and hurting in Africa. This past summer we had opportunity to do this again in Gulu, northern Uganda.

Rebecca Nambi, 24, is from the central region of Uganda so this was her first trip to Gulu in the north. At 18, she was invited to a church where she got introduced to Jesus. As an only child and losing her mother at the age of 9, Rebecca has gone through much hardship. She was often sent home from school for non-payment of fees because her father never had a stable job. A literature teacher paid the fees to enable her complete O' Levels. After that, her church paid for her A' Levels. Through the grace of God, she achieved very good grades and was accepted to Makerere University on scholarship where she is now studying Mass Communication and dreams of becoming a journalist and an author some day!

In tenderness He sought me
Weary and sick with sin
And on His shoulders brought me
Into His flock again
While angels in His presence sang
Until the courts of heaven rang.

*Oh, the love that sought me!
Oh, the blood that bought me!
Oh, the grace that
brought me to the flock,
Wondrous grace that
brought me to the flock!*

He washed the bleeding sin-wounds
And poured in oil and wine
He whispered to assure me
"I've found thee, thou art Mine"
I never heard a sweeter voice,
It made my aching heart rejoice.



Below are some of Rebecca's reflection from her time with the Adonai Partners team pouring on oil and wine into precious lives wounded by the long war in northern Uganda. Thankfully, the war is over but the wounds are taking longer to heal. As you read the account of this young lady please consider what you can do.

Saturday, July 31st

The Adonai Partners team visited *Uganda Jesus Village* Saturday afternoon to spend time with the 64 Acholi children from Gulu that Streams of Life church takes care of, most of whom are orphans. We began with praise and worship after which some of the children presented their traditional dances to the beautiful rhythm of African drums. The Adonai team performed a music drama portraying repentance and redemption. There were games, word puzzles and a lot of other activities that we did with all the groups of children. For the younger groups there were more games than words. One of the games is a word puzzle. In this game, the children come up with their own words and pass them around for others to draw pictures of the word. At the same time, each child drew pictures of the words that were passed on to them.

Cameron Mitchell, a Canadian who together with his wife Jennifer manage the home introduced each of the 64 children by name, what an amazing feat! He told us that majority of the children had no knowledge of English when they came from Gulu four years ago. It's so beautiful that most of them can now speak English and write. The most amazing example is of the youngest girl who is eight. During the word game, I stayed around her long enough to learn that she can read and write. This young girl belonged to the group that Beulah, the youngest member of the Adonai team was guiding. After Beulah told the group to write down any word that came to their minds, she wrote the word cow after a lot of pondering; and she managed to read and draw pictures of almost all the words that were sent to her. The younger group wrote words like cow, dog, hen and apple. One of the children in the older group wrote a phrase instead of just a word, it read, *'I love Jesus with all your heart.'*

Monday, August 2nd

We arrived Gulu on Sunday evening after an amazing time of worship at Streams of Life Church in Kampala. Monday started out with some uncertainty but we were confident that God was with us. Since Adonai Partners, work in collaboration with local authorities, we usually meet with the District Health Officer (DHO) before our medical outreaches begin. Considering the busy schedules of most senior government officials, this can be a challenge. Our leaders finally met with the DHO today. He said many NGOs have been stopped from operating in Gulu because they have nothing to show for their activities. He went on that since he knows Adonai Partners is impacting the lives of many Acholi people especially children he would not stop us from serving the people. He encouraged Adonai to build permanent structures to provide ongoing support to the people after we're gone. At about mid-day we drove from Gulu town towards Dino, it is a three hours' drive. The land is big and fertile but it seems the people barely use it for crops. The most common structure you see driving through the vast land are primary schools. I do not recall seeing one health center in the distance we travelled until we got to Dino. Dino is next door to Odek, the birth place of Joseph Kony, leader of the LRA that for 24 years committed atrocities against the people of this land.



Rebecca and other team members serving in Dino and Arut. in Gulu District, northern Uganda during our medical outreach.



Tuesday, August 3rd

The drive to Dino seemed rather shorter today than it was yesterday. We sang praise and worship songs throughout the drive which truly explains that.

When we arrived there was already a crowd of women, men and children waiting. They came from far and near. Judging from how we had found the people the previous day I realized that they wore their best today. There were very many sick people, mostly women and children.

I had a chance to interview some of the people and many of their stories were very touching. One particular story that touched me was that of Akello a 19 year old mother of three who was abducted from the camp here in Dino in 2003. She was taken by the rebels from Uganda into Sudan and she became 'wife' to one of the rebels as did other girls that had been abducted with her. She said that after they had crossed into the Sudan some of the girls were let go because there was not enough food and water for all of them. She narrated, 'we would take a full week without water and sometimes food. The rebels would send us out to villages in order to steal food and other necessities.' Her nine month old daughter coughed convulsively while she spoke. She looked rather sickly and starved, perhaps the reason she had come. Akello said that she stayed in the bush for seven years and served the rebels and her 'husband' to whom she bore a daughter. She returned from the bush with the girl who unfortunately died a few months later from a disease she could not describe. She said 'her eyes and legs were swollen before she died in agonizing pain'. Akello now has three surviving children two of which share a father but only one of two fathers is alive. She did not mention the cause of the other's death. Her rebel 'husband' died in the bush before she was rescued.

The Adonai team worked tirelessly but there was still a lot of work at the end of the day.

Wednesday, August 4th

The team picked up from where it had stopped the previous day and at the end of the day every person was served in one way or another. There were more people today than on the first day - there were more men too. As the whole team came to realize, many people came to Dino with many different needs. One of our team members, Paul Mpanga, a Ugandan who lives in the United States was very inspiring. He had been praying the whole time. I will never forget what I saw while I moved near a crowd of people in Dino. Paul was standing in a circle praying at the top of his voice. This circle was made of people, all on their knees many of whom were much older than him. He was praying for them and as he prayed many others came and knelt down, making the circle bigger. Hundreds of people gave their lives to Christ.



Cameron Mitchell and his wife, Jennifer leaders of the Uganda Jesus Village in Kampala.

These people's humility draws a perfect picture of the Adonai team members. Many of the team members have big titles to their names; there are doctors, nurses, dentists, pastors and other great men of God. These people however put their titles aside or used them to serve God by serving the people. And even with the other members of the team they were humble, this made those like me without titles even more humble, and hence there was a spirit of unity among all.

Thursday, August 5th

The last day of our outreach in Gulu was spent in Arut, a village not very far away from Gulu town. Many people I spoke to in Gulu had not heard about Dino or Arut. Although only about 14 km away, Arut has no water, school, health center or even a church. We were warmly welcomed when we arrived. The people came in large numbers - much more than most of us had anticipated. They seem to be wearing their best clothes and were very cooperative. They carried furniture from their homes for the medical team to use because we served the people under the trees. This day was also a success; the Lord God was with us. Several of our team members went for a prayer walk in the Arut community and experienced a powerful move of God.

Conclusion

This was my first time to travel to Gulu and I will never forget it. The misconceptions in my mind about the effects of rebel activities in Gulu left my naïve brain when I saw the reality on the ground. This has impacted my life. I will now have a more careful approach to life and will treasure my relationship with God more. I realized that any person can make a difference and in this case that's me. I believe that we have made a difference in the lives of people of Northern Uganda. I will make a point to remember them in my prayers - that's the least I can do. I will never waste again because now I know that saving a little thing to give to the desperately poor and unhealthy makes an inestimable difference.

I thank God for Adonai Partners and for the opportunity to see the suffering of my own people, in my own land. This is a favor I can never be able to return. I thank everyone who prayed or gave to make this possible. God bless all of you.



Above: Serving in Dino, Right: Children praying to receive Christ in Arut

Please pray for Barnabas Gathering, our evening of fellowship, food, and information sharing. The event will hold from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at Hilton Garden Inn, Greenbelt, Maryland.

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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