

Summer Missions' Trip Report (2009)

Uganda

The African Christian Fellowship (ACF) Missions Inc. went on a summer missions' trip to Uganda for two weeks starting from August 1 to 17, 2009. As in previous years, the missions' trip was held in two locations: Kigarama district (Fort Portal area) in the western region and Kumi district in the eastern region. The team was made up of 10 people from ACF USA, East Region and 10 people from ACF Uganda. The activities included medical outreach, spiritual counseling, visitation to schools, and meetings with government officials.

Trip to Fort Portal

The Missions' team first traveled to Fort Portal on August 3 and carried out the following activities before returning to their base in Kampala on August 8.

Visit to Government Officials

Prior to the arrival of the team in Fort Portal, the coordinator of ACF Missions' work in the Fort Portal area had arranged for meetings with the Resident District Commissioner (that represents the president), Probate officer and District Medical Inspector. The team members used part of the first day visiting these government officials. These meetings were part of the effort to legitimize ACF work and presence in Uganda.



The Resident District Commissioner later visited the site for ACF's medical clinic in Kigarama district to encourage the patients who came to receive treatment during the medical outreach at the site. He was impressed with ACF Missions' work in Uganda and promised to assist in any way he could to further ACF work in the area. The Probate Office gave useful information on how to provide services to individuals and communities in need in the Fort Portal area; while the Medical Inspector

provided the team with government guidelines and requirements for medical clinics and visited the medical clinic site for official inspection and approval of the building construction.

Visit to Schools

The visits to schools this year was different compared to previous years. The team spent one and half days visiting ACF sponsored children's schools. In previous years, we met only our sponsored children during the school visits, but this year, the team had the opportunity to address the whole students and teachers in the schools. The team seized the opportunity to preach the gospel message to the entire school. The team also prayed for the students and the teachers.

Later, the team spent more time with ACF sponsored children in the school and provided one-on-one counseling to address their spiritual needs, and give them the gifts the team brought for them. The team also witnessed the deplorable classroom conditions in the schools. Some of the schools have about 110 children in a class. It was difficult to imagine how children could study and do well academically under such conditions.



Medical Outreach

The Missions' team spent the last two days providing medical services to the Kigarama community. The medical outreach was carried out inside the medical clinic building, with the assistance of five medical doctors and six nurses from Uganda and U.S.A. More than one thousand people were treated during the medical outreach. Some people traveled more than twenty miles to come to the medical outreach. Since this is usually the only opportunity for most people in the community to visit a doctor in a whole year, ACF Missions increased the number of medical staff this year to be able to provide treatment to as many as possible during the medical outreach.



This community needs consistent medical services, and the ACF medical clinic under construction is nearing completion. Plan is underway to officially commission the clinic during the 2010 summer missions' trip. The only obstacle to accomplish this goal is about \$20,000.00. This amount will help to complete the building, wall and landscape the premises. Donations are also needed

for medical equipments and supplies for the clinic. This area of Fort Portal has the highest rate of HIV prevalence and the clinic will be used to provide HIV testing and counseling services. Any gift or donations would help to complete this project on schedule.

TRIP TO KUMI

After the Fort Portal mission outreach, the Missions' team moved over to Kumi district on August 10 and stayed through August 15. The team organized medical outreach and distributed food. The team also held a two-day discipleship camp for ACF sponsored children and went to see the land donated to ACF by the local council in Kamenya sub-county for the construction of a new medical clinic.

Medical Outreach

The medical outreach was held in the church premises near Ogoma primary school. Five clinical officers and five nurses were used to provide treatment to people in the community. The turnout was impressive, and the medical team worked well into the evening to make sure services were provided to most of the people who came to receive treatment. The team was able to attend to more than 500 people during the one-day medical outreach.

An important highlight of the medical outreach was the spiritual counseling for people who were treated. During the counseling sessions, about 32 people gave their lives to Christ. Many people who brought their sick relatives were also reached with the gospel. Many of them gave their lives to Christ, while others with spiritual problems were prayed for in the process. Many of them went home with restored hope for the future.



Food Distribution

Food distribution was a new area of ministry. The team received news about famine in the Kumi district from the coordinator of ACF program in the area as they were preparing for the summer missions' trip. The situation was so bad that there were communities where people were dying of hunger. The sum of \$1,500.00 was used to purchase food that was distributed during the missions' trip.



The Missions' team traveled to Kokwech village in Malera Sub-county on the second day to distribute thirty bags (1500 Kilograms) of corn flour and five bags (500 kilograms) of beans. As the Missions' team traveled to the village, they saw withered crops in nearby farms. When the team arrived at the food distribution site, the people were already gathered and the women made joyous traditional sounds to welcome the team. The people were happy and said that they

had not received any visitors since the famine started. Food was first given to those most affected by the famine, before giving to the rest of the community.

Before distributing the food, the Regional Missions Director Pastor Emmanuel Ike used Mathew 11:28 to preach the message of salvation. A prominent man in the village and thirteen other people gave their lives to Christ. After the message, the ACF East Region President, Brother Emmanuel Ezeonu, used II Chronicle 7:14 to lead the people into a time of prayer asking God to send rain to the land.

God did not waste time in answering the prayer, and proved that the God of Elijah is still the God we serve today. As the team was driving back to their hotel in the town, they observed a cloud moving in the direction of the village and asked God to allow this cloud to reach the village. The ACF program coordinator who comes from the village reported that on that night, the miracle started with great thundering and ended with calm rainfall. It is amazing that a place that did not receive rain since May 2009 (four months) received rain for the first time after the team visited the village and prayed for God to send rain to the land. The program coordinator later informed the team that it has been raining in the village since August 13, the day the Missions' team visited and prayed for the village. Ever since then, the people have been busy planting their fields to make up for the lost crops. Everyone in the village now testifies that the God of this people (ACF) is true, and answers prayer.

Another remarkable event during the food distribution was the delivery of a baby boy by a woman (Aduke Christine) who came to receive some food. Immediately her name was called to come and receive food, she went into labor and delivered her baby in one of the huts in the village square. The community saw this as a sign that God is working with the ministry of ACF Missions and the baby was given the name Emmanuel after the names of our leaders.



Site for Medical Clinic in Kumi District

After the food distribution, the Missions' team went to see a portion of land that was donated to ACF in Kamenya village for the construction of a medical clinic and other projects that will benefit the community. The Kamenya community expressed their willingness to support the construction work when it begins. The village council further promised to donate more land to ACF if the need arises.

Two-Day Camp for ACF Sponsored Children

The Missions' team rounded the visit to Kumi with a two-day camp meeting for ACF sponsored children. The program was organized to provide spiritual, academic, psychological, and gender specific counseling to the children. Many orphans not supported by ACF programs attended the two-day camp and some of them gave their lives to Christ.



It is a fulfilling experience to be out in the missions' field and observe how God changes the lives of people through the ministry of ACF Missions Inc.. The Missions' team has been privileged over the years to have ACF youths and young adults go on missions' trip with the team. It is very encouraging to see how these young people are touched by the suffering and problems people in Africa face everyday. This is a positive sign that this vision for Africa will not die with our generation. We need to encourage

the youths and young adults to be more involved in missions.

Dr. Festus Ukwuani
Deputy Missions Director
On behalf of the team members