

Subject: Final Update  
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Once again sorry for skipping a couple days, free time and internet access have been scarce.

Wednesday morning I joined Bob, Drue, Loyd, Tyler and Brian along with our translators Moses, Ronnie and George Yahweh (love the name). Moses came to know Christ a couple years ago through the initial outreach to begin the church plant called Vineyard Presbyterian Church in the Seeta-Nazigo Village. Since then he has grown rapidly in his spiritual development and is in his first year of bible college at Westminster Seminary and was responsible for organizing the outreach program. Ronnie is a long time friend and excellent translator, and my Luganda tutor, who has been working with ACTI teams for many years. I met George Yahweh for the first time, but had heard of his testimony in the past. When he was a young child he had been offered as a sacrifice in a witchcraft ritual by his parents and was left for dead. He survived with severe burns and was hospitalized for many months, but eventually recovered to have near normal physical function. He was taken in by a christian family and became a christian at a young age. This man has an amazing zeal for sharing the gospel! Yet he is very candid about sharing his full testimony including having been offered as a sacrifice to demons. He tells me that it remains painful to speak of it some 40 or so years removed, but God has used it powerfully when he has felt led to do so. The amazing rest of the story is that his biological parents who offered him as a sacrifice became believers later in life and they were able to experience forgiveness and some degree of reconciliation with them. We spent the full day walking house to house, speaking at a couple schools, and speaking with groups of people in the market about the gospel. Many people made professions of faith. Pray that they will follow up and attend the Vineyard Church and be discipled. As always, it was amazing to me to be able to just walk up to a school, introduce ourselves to the headmaster and be able to address the school with a gospel presentation on the spot, but this is not unusual in the villages.

One case of a conversion stood out to me as a very dramatic example of seeing the Holy Spirit use God's word to bring someone to himself. We had just spent the previous hour in a small dirt floor house sharing the gospel with the wife and mother and nearly immediately after she asked for forgiveness of sins and to be born again her husband came in. I'm not sure exactly what proceeded this part of the conversation, but at some point he very confidently proclaimed that he was a catholic, had been baptized several years ago and since then had not sinned and he was confident in his eternal position with Christ. I told him I had never met anyone that I knew of who hadn't sinned in several years, but asked that we read I John 1:5-10, "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship

with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." As we read the passage together and discussed it briefly it was as if the "light" came on and he very quickly recognized that he had been deceived. He also prayed indicating his desire to receive Jesus as his Savior.

On Thursday, I had planned to do a follow up exam and remove cornea sutures on Luke who had the cornea laceration I had closed almost 3 weeks ago, but received a telephone call that surgery was cancelled because the next day had been declared a national holiday. Uganda recognizes several Islamic holidays as national holidays. Even though we are working in a christian hospital they observe all national holidays so I had no staff and had to ask another doctor to do the procedure on Friday. I learned that many muslim holidays are flexible for a few days and depend on whatever muslim is in charge seeing the first crescent of the moon which he did on Wednesday night. The other guys spent the day doing more evangelism and having working with a conference on Unity at Vineyard Presbyterian. I had to leave for my flight last night before seeing them so I haven't heard how it went. I did have the opportunity of meeting with Dr. Rose Mutumba for a few hours. I first met her in 2000 when I visited the hospital and she was training under an American Ophthalmologist after just finishing her residency. In 2008 she had become head of the eye department. Last year she was appointed Deputy Medical Director and just a month or two ago was appointed Medical Director of Mengo Hospital. Unlike the U.S. where Medical Director means being in charge of the physicians in the hospital, in Uganda it means you are the CEO of the organization responsible only to the board of directors. Not that I haven't had a few similar experiences before, but she had wanted me to see her private clinic in Kampala, and when we went out of the administration building assuming she would drive in the old car I remembered, her driver opened the doors of a fairly nice hospital provided vehicle and drove us away. It is a great thing to see this lady in this position. She is a very godly, biblically sound woman who lives out her faith and has a desire to not only improve clinical care but bring a greater emphasis on spiritual care to the hospital. She has an amazing testimony of trusting God in her marriage. She was married to another physician who became a drunkard, abusive of his children and engaged in many adulterous relationships. It reached a point where she sought a legal separation for protection of her and her children, but prayed daily for the man. Fifteen years later without having seen him for a very long time, he knocked on her door and asked to go to church with her. In shock she said yes and was further surprised when during the invitation he went forward proclaiming his desire to receive Christ as his Savior. A few days later, she was still watching to see what would transpire with him, when he asked to move back into the house. She was concerned, but felt like God told her to allow it but put many conditions on his staying there. By this time he had contracted HIV and without the treatment we now have now only lived for another 3 years. She said that she was so amazed that during that time she never saw anyone else with a greater zeal to know God and share the gospel. He truly changed, reconciled with his children and as she says was either studying the bible or sharing the

gospel for his remaining 3 years. She said he made a point of going back to those he had been carousing with and had a powerful witness to them. Perhaps most impressive about this story is that when the pastor told the congregation why he had come forward in the invitation, he asked how many in the congregation had regularly prayed for him over the last fifteen years and the vast majority of the congregation raised their hands. So pray for Dr. Rose as she moves forward leading Mengo Hospital.

Basime Godfrey reported to me yesterday that the land had been cleared and foundations were being dug for his pig farm. Derrick Doble has recovered from his illness, but due to the Muslim Holiday her embassy interview to get him a VISA was put off for a day. Pray that she can somehow get it quickly and not incur significant costs in changing her airline tickets.

I write this from the Airport in Amsterdam and aim to put together some summary thoughts in the near future.

Thank you again for your prays. God has answered.

Grace and peace,

J.D.=