



Mission Update

News from Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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1st Medical Outpost begins

In May, the first of the Medical Outposts for the Church of Uganda will open in Kikorongo village on the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This is the first of ten proposed medical outposts sponsored by Renaissance Outreach Ministries.

The western part of Uganda is a rugged area. The region is home to the Rwenzori Mountains. These green mountains rise majestically to an elevation of 5100 meters, with several of the highest peaks boasting glaciers and snow coverings.

In ancient times, these mountains were called by the Greeks the Mountains of the Moon and are the highest mountain range in Africa. The highest mountains are protected in Rwenzori National Park which is popular place for trekking and mountain climbing.

Outside of the park are many villages that are not easily connected to the main highways. The local farmers do a subsistence farming as they have done for centuries. Major crops include cassava, beans and bananas.

The western part of Uganda is known for its large salt-water lakes, creating what is known as the Great Lakes region of Africa. The lakes support fishing villages where there is a high degree of AIDS and poverty.

Kikorongo village is on the main highway that leads to Mbarara and passes through Queen Elizabeth National Park. It has been chosen as the site of the first of the medical outposts because of its location near the fishing villages. There is no medical facilities within miles of these villages.

The Medical Outposts are a different type of medical center for rural Africa. Traditional medical clinics with doctors often don't work because African doctors won't stay, preferring to get



Zebras are found south of Kasese region around Lake Mburo. The national parks of Uganda are filled with lots of African animals, making Uganda national parks the best place for safari travels. Photo by Rev. Jan L. Bederstadt

their experience and then move on to the cities where they can make better money. The Medical Outposts are operated by nurse practitioners. The advantages of the Medical Outposts are as follows:

- Less expensive to set up
- No rent to pay (uses local church)
- Self-sustaining
- Government licensed
- Under supervision of medical arm of the Church of Uganda

The cost of setting up a Medical Outpost is just \$1000. Half of the money is used for start up equipment, the other half to purchase medicine at a discounted price through the medical department of the Church of Uganda which is then sold at a discount to the local people. Office call will be UGX 5000 (\$1.43). It is estimated that the

nurse practitioner will do an average of six office calls a day at the beginning which would bring in an income over 25 days of UGX 750,000 (\$214.29 a month) which is a very livable wage. Additional income can be made by selling the medicine.

The nurse practitioners can deliver babies plus perform basic medical procedures. Anything more difficult the nurse practitioner will stabilize the patient before sending them to a regional hospital. Two hospitals are owned by the Church of Uganda which are in the area.

The concept came about as students at the Rwenzori School of Nursing and Midwifery wanted to stay in their home area (see page 2)

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Medical Outpost to open May in Uganda

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However, there were limited number of jobs available in this rural area. These students knew that there was a great need for basic medicine in their own areas.

Renaissance Outreach Ministries has set the goal of starting up ten of these Medical Outposts in connection with the Church of Uganda. The price to start a medical outpost was originally \$1500, but through using the local churches as medical centers during the week has significantly reduced the costs of start-up. Local churches usually have a room which can be dedicated to the medical facility.

Many of the nurse practitioners will be certified lay readers for the church, meaning that they will also be the pastor of the local church. This is a good combination as they will already be working with the local community. It is a good way of doing evangelism in this region.

The first of the nurse practitioners is Mr. Charles Thembo, a 2019 graduate of the Rwenzori School of Nursing in Kasese. He was part of the first graduating class which had 378 graduates.

Money needed for nine more Medical Outposts

Renaissance Outreach is working to establish nine more Medical Outposts in Uganda at the cost of \$1000 each. A total of \$9000 is needed.

The first one will be started in May in Kikorongo, Uganda. Others are being slated for both rural valley areas of western Uganda which often flood during rainy season as well as in the high mountain villages.

Each of these Medical Outposts will be self-sustaining. The \$1000 is used to buy equipment, a bicycle for the nurse practitioner as well as medicine which they will sell to help support themselves.



Twenty churches from the high mountain of the Himalayas in Rasuwa and Dhading Districts of Nepal have requested to become a part of the Church of the Himalayas. Pastor Jan along with Rev. Barnabas Titung traveled to this village in early March to meet with the churches and establish a connection. These are very rural churches in Nepal with many not even connected by roads. Many pastors walked at least one day to attend the meeting.

Jesus Seminary Up and running

The Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas is up and running in Kathmandu. There are six Master Level Students and seven PhD level students attending.

The school has been blessed by the presence of foreign teachers. This includes Rev. Carl Litchfield of Mendon, Michigan and Rev. Dr. Thomas Langford and his wife Elisabeth of Illinois

The PhD program is being headed up by Rev. Dr. Jon Ruthven, a retired seminary professor.

A branch campus is now operating in Jaigaon, India under the direction of Bishop Philip Gajmer of the Church of the Himalayas. He is doing basic level training for pastors who are opening underground churches in the tiny Himalayan country of Bhutan. Here Christianity is still illegal, so churches are

underground. The church in Bhutan is definitely growing with new churches springing up all across the country.

At the present time, the Jesus Seminary is working with one other ministry in Mozambique as well as in western Uganda.

Donations to support the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas can be made through Renaissance Outreach Ministries. Needed to meet expenses are \$600 a month.

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News and stories about the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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