

The Vineyard's South Sudan Mission Trip

Wednesday's Update

South Sudan Missions Update

[Monday-
Wednesday Update](#)



Doug Patterson using chiropractic skills to help.



From left to right, back row: Clint Schwartz, Rodger Parfitt, Hugh Johnson, Denise Pope; Front row: Rose Schwartz, Doug Patterson, Sarah Nimmo, Dawn Morehouse, & Kathy Smarrella



Dawn Morehouse praying with a young woman.



Denise Pope interacting with the children.



Rose Schwartz with the children.

Trip Report #1 - Monday through Wednesday

This year's mission trip to South Sudan and Uganda is certain to be an adventure! We have a wonderful team of 9 people, 4 who have gone before and 5 who will be making their first trip to South Sudan, all who will be (and currently are being) stretched beyond their comfort zones. My wife **Rose Schwartz** was able to come along again this year to focus on the many photography projects, and also to help lead as one of the more experienced team members. **Kathy Smarrella** was also able to come along again to help lead and to help with photography and the many children's projects. **Dawn Morehouse** is back for her second trip to South Sudan and is one of the teachers at the Leadership Conference, along with leading the team in Prayer Ministry. **Hugh Johnson** is making his first trip to South Sudan and is also teaching at the Leadership Conference. **Denise Pope**, Pastor Mark's wife, is making her first trip to South Sudan and is helping with the children's projects. (Pastor Mark thought about going back this year but Denise told him it was HER turn to see the children!) **Sarah Nimmo** is making her first trip to South Sudan, though she has been to Uganda before on a mission trip. Sarah is also helping with the children's projects. **Doug Patterson** is making his first trip to Africa and is a chiropractor, so he is helping with the medical outreach. And last, but not least, is **Rodger Parfitt** who is a pharmacist and is also helping with the medical outreach.

The trip so far has been nothing short of exhausting... I'm not sure why traveling is so tiring, but it really is a trial of endurance. We met at the church at 12 noon on Monday to finish packing the team bags (all 9 of them), prayed and were on the road by 1pm. Traffic through Chicago wasn't much of a problem at all and we arrived at the airport with several hours to spare. Then began our challenges... The plane began boarding, but then they kicked everyone off the plane to do more "maintenance"... We only had a 1 hour and 20 minute layover scheduled in Belgium until our next flight to Uganda would take off, so this had us really concerned. Within 30 minutes they let us all board and we were on our way. We landed in Brussels, Belgium with 45 minutes to get to our next flight. As we rushed to our flight the airline attendants told us to RUN, and so we did! We made it to the next gate just as they were finishing their boarding and we were on the plane. After 8 hours cramped up in a flight from the U.S.A., we ran for 20 minutes through the airport to board our next 10 hour flight, what fun! While we were sitting in the plane, we joyfully saw some of our luggage on a cart outside the plane, which meant that it had arrived from our other flight. But unfortunately, we watched as 2 of those bags drove away from the plane unloaded, and yes, those were the 2 bags that didn't arrive with us in Uganda. The cool thing about those 2 bags were that one was full of children's toys that we can give them later in the week, and the other was Hugh Johnson's personal luggage, but his wonderful wife Laura packed TWO changes of clothes in his carry-on, so he is set for a couple of days until his bag arrives.

Because of the lost luggage, we had to fill out some claim forms which delayed everything on our arrival. Pastor Solomon was there patiently waiting for us and took us to our hotel, but we didn't check-in until midnight Tuesday night. It was quite a trip so far!

Today (Wednesday), we were able to sleep in a little, and after breakfast we headed to Pastor Solomon's church for a medical outreach. We were told that people started lining up to be treated at 6am that morning and that there were already over 100 people in line! Doug and Rodger got started right away treating patients, they worked very hard and very long today! It was a joy to see Agnes there helping, she is the young lady that helped us last year but was found to have a huge ovarian tumor. We raised money for her back home to pay for her surgery and now she is healthy and "giving back" because of the help she received!

Doug brought a medical laser to help treat certain patients, but because of the need for him to do chiropractic care, he quickly trained Hugh Johnson on how to use the laser, so Hugh got right to work also. Rose & Kathy went shopping for various medical supplies while Denise and Sarah went to visit the nearby school. Dawn and I helped triage the patients along with several medical students. Everyone wanted to see the chiropractor, and also everyone wanted to receive some care from the pharmacist. The medical students were running the ultrasound to diagnose patients and administering malaria tests, they were extremely helpful. It was so encouraging for me to see Rodger pray for some patients that we simply couldn't help, he is quite a prayer warrior! Dawn of course was praying for anyone and everyone, it was very cool and received very well. We found one boy with a broken arm that needed surgery, one woman with a huge tumor in her abdomen that needed surgery, another boy who broke his back when he was 3 years old and never had it set correctly, one lady with HIV, and one sad case where a pregnant lady's baby was found to no longer have a heartbeat.