



Bring Your Own Sutures?

Dear Friend,

Rarely has my flabber been so gasted.

I sat with three colleagues to my left, a husband and wife doctor team on my right, with one of our Ugandan care team members completing the circle.



Drs. Scott and Jennifer are American physicians who serve as missionaries in Bundibugyo (where the Ourganda teams provide life-saving medical care wrapped in kindness). Stories and statistics tumbled out of the doctors as they explained their work and the challenges they attempt to overcome.

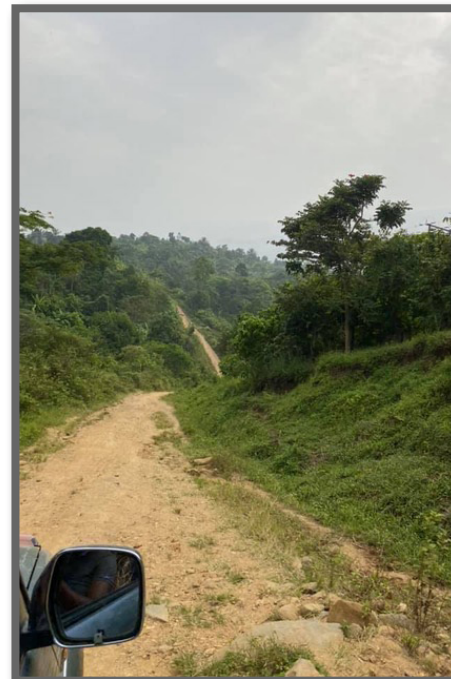
Scott, an OB-GYN, and Jennifer, a pediatrician, have worked in east Africa for 25 years. The government hospital where Dr. Scott serves has no X-ray machine. The hospital lacks a Complete Blood Count (CBC) Analyzer. We already knew that a woman who gets to the hospital in labor may not be admitted unless she arrives with her own birthing kit.

But we were not prepared for what Scott said next.

“Just last month,” Dr. Scott explained, “**a pregnant woman who learned she would need a C-section was told they had no sutures.** They could not perform the C-section unless she provided her own sutures.”

What?! Where was she supposed to buy sutures? And how?

This is where Ourganda works. Our three clinical officers, two nurses, two midwives, and drivers travel in 4-wheel drive vehicles to reach villages where people’s only hope of medical education and care is the weekly visit of our teams. (It took us 29 minutes to drive 4.2 miles to Buyambaya Village through creeks and up mountain ridges on a belligerent road that would have scared Edmund Hillary.)



Our team is saving a lot of lives. During our trip last month, Dr. Mike Garnett, a physician from Washington

state, gave advanced training in various treatments and medication usage and helped them finalize their formulary. Marla Hern, a registered nurse, worked hand in hand with the clinical officers, nurses, and midwives, gained a deeper respect and appreciation for the immense challenges they face, and guided them to better organize their medication distribution. Andy Rodriguez, logistics and inventory specialist at a medical center in Oregon, coached the team in the areas of inventory, cost analysis, and ordering efficiency.

We were blessed and inspired, but we encountered urgent needs. During our brief visit to our villages, **we met seven people who need immediate medical attention.** We have to help them.

One of the seven is a boy named Alex. He is almost five years old. (I debated whether to show you the photos of his condition, but I don't think I should. You can learn enough from this photo of Dr. Mike examining him.) When his mother brought him to our medical team in Bubandi II, her face was shaded by pain and sorrow – with a hint of hope. Hope that Ourganda could find a way to help Alex. We must, and we will. Dr. Mike talked with our clinical officers and recommended assessment and possible surgery in Mulago Hospital, Kampala.

We need your help for Alex and for the others.

Ourganda is built on generous, unselfish people who love becoming someone's hero, people who demonstrate God's love in a practical way. When you partner with Ourganda, people like Alex and his mom know they aren't forgotten. They have a chance to find healing, to step onto the road that leads to human flourishing.

Thank you sincerely. Every penny helps!



Ron Gladden
Ourganda Director



Ongoing Projects	Cost	Needed
Water Backpacks	\$5.50 each	hundreds
Kits (Hygiene, Birthing)	\$8 each	hundreds
Kids Kits	\$10 each	hundreds
Water Filters	\$40 each	hundreds
Urgent Medical Surgeries	\$1,000 average per person	