

Storybook Pediatrics *with Ron & Stacy Smith*

Serving the Lord in Haiti



April 2022

Hello, everyone. It has been a busy time over the last year, both in our mission work and in our personal lives.

My 89 year-old mother has occupied much of our time. After living alone for the last seven years since my Father passed on, we have been forced to provide care for her in a nursing-home-like facility. She fell in January while I was in Uganda on a medical mission trip with MedReach, Inc. out of Alabama. She still has all her faculties but can no longer walk and requires help to transfer to and from her wheelchair.

Work in Africa

In October or September of last year, SL Hudson contacted me about participating in their yearly January Uganda medical mission outreach. Two of the four physicians planning to go dropped out.

I participated in their May-June Tanzania medical outreach, so naturally they called to see if I could help. I did go, but positive PCR tests reduced our team from 17 to 13 leaving only myself and one other physician to see patients.

Upon arrival in Kampala, we drove for over 10 hours into northern Uganda where the infamous Joseph Kony and his child army had victimized that area while fighting against the Ugandan army. It was obvious that the people still suffered from those not-so-recent events, as evidenced by very few women wearing traditional bright-colored attire.

When we go on MedReach medical bush clinics, the team takes everything they need from a kitchen and food to tents to latrine facilities. They never go to the same bush location twice. MedReach is a cooperative part of Here's Life Africa which uses the Jesus film to evangelize. They train pastors to lead the 3,000 churches a year that they plant in Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi.

The 11-day Ugandan trips typically include about four to five days seeing patients. Dr. Susan Ashbee, myself, and a nurse conducted a triage medical clinic where we saw almost 1,700 patients during that time.

The medical care is not, however, the reason for these trips. MedReach uses medicine to draw people so that they all hear the Gospel message and get the opportunity to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Other outreach during this time include daily children's ministries, pastors conference sessions, women's hygiene education, and nurse midwife education and support.

Normally about 21-24 people will go to Uganda each year. We thirteen arrived and quickly began setting up the clinic under ominous skies. That night while we were still working, two torrential downpours left us with wet tent interiors and low spirits. However, the locals told us the next day that they had almost never seen rain this time of year, especially in such a downpour, and that this was a great blessing.

Being associated with such a tremendous blessing changed our hearts about our soggy start! By the time we left the area just south of the South Sudan border, the impact of our work hit home. Bonds and trust were established. People met our Lord Jesus, and came to love him like we do. The door now is open for more northern bush clinics.

I first went with MedReach to Tanzania in late May of 2021, and I'm taking Harrison my thirteen-year-old grandson this year to instill in him the love for sharing Christ. Raising up the next generation for evangelism is as important as evangelism itself.

In the 2021 Tanzania clinic, we three US and two Tanzania physicians saw some 2,700 people over two weeks in two different bush locations. I expect the same or more this year.

Work in Haiti

In 2010 after the terrible Haitian earthquake, Joseph Similien (Simi), became a tent leader in Delmas in Port-au-Prince. He started the Make A Difference Worldwide Institute (MADWI) school which taught many vocational and practical subject with English as the most important course.

Simi was educated in the Haitian American Institute for about 2 1/2 years and is ESL certified. He is also an ordained pastor with a degree from Revelation Bible College in Florida.

The school building was wooden, and was supported financially by one church and another non-church organization. After a couple of years, a disagreement between those entities caused all funding for MADWI to dry up. Thugs tore the wooden building down, but Simi rescued everything he could and carried it to Onaville, a retirement area north of Port-au-Prince.

It wasn't until Stacy and I did a three-month missionary stent there in 2018, that we really got to know Simi and his wife Martine. Simi's vision for MADWI was still alive, to the point he was buying large rock which he would pound by hand into the smaller aggregate needed for the concrete wall. That wall around a yet-to-be-built school building was only about two feet high.

Stacy and I captured Simi's vision, and by the time we left Haiti, the wall was finished and rose to around ten feet or more complete with a gate. Within the next year, the first floor of the building was complete, with a small three-floor tower where they and their one son lived. Work continues slowly on the second floor, and a third floor is planned.

As soon as he could, the MADWI classes were restarted. This past December, the school graduated over a hundred students!

Even though Stacy and I are missionaries in Haiti, Africa, and any other place in the world our Father calls us, we put every dime of the funds given to us back in to ministry. We are retired and choose to live on what that provides so that Simi can continue helping his people.

Missions partnership with Simi and Martine is critical since it is not only unsafe for Stacy and I to live in Haiti, our presence would distract from the important work they are doing.

Recently we established an English scholarship. Instead of investing directly in a specific person, we invest in teaching them all five levels of English. A mere \$200 is all that it takes to teach a Haitian all five levels of English which is their most important step out of poverty.

Maybe you want to help Haitians in a very tangible and lasting way, too? All donations to Stacy and I through Harvest International go to Make A Difference Worldwide Institute. We currently fund our other mission work out of our own pocket.

Simply signify a gift of \$200 plus \$50-100 to cover the cost of transferring funds and to support Harvest International to Ron and Stacy Smith. Again, all the funds we receive through your donations through Harvest International go to Haiti.

Video and Website Resources. These are great links with great video.

Make A Difference Worldwide Institute

<https://www.madwi.org>

MedReach Video

[Welcome to Africa: https://www.hopbm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Welcome-to-Africa-480p30.mp4](https://www.hopbm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Welcome-to-Africa-480p30.mp4)

Introduction to MedReach:

<https://www.hopbm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MedRach-Introduction4-80p30.mp4>

Walkthrough at a MedReach Bush Clinic:

<https://www.hopbm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MedReach-Walk-Through-480p30.mp4>