

UGANDA MEDICAL MISSION

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Steve Agosto and Dr. Stacy Cervan

Many people in Uganda cannot afford basic medical or dental care—35 percent live below the poverty level, according to U.S. government statistics. Last May, a team of nine believers from CC South in Kent, WA, along with two dentists from Medical Relief International (MRI), headed to Uganda to meet people’s dental and spiritual needs. They also worked alongside Christian ministries who serve orphans. CC South believers assisted more than 360 patients with extractions, fillings, and x-rays, and they presented the Good News to many. Several openly placed their trust in Jesus as a result. New Hope Uganda is a CC Costa Mesa-supported ministry designed to assist orphans and children who, after being forcibly recruited into the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), have been rescued.

At each of the three villages, the team had patients follow four stages during treatment. Steve Agosto, leader of CC South’s mission team, explained that stage one included registration and pre-examination necessities. Stage two, known as “Tree of Life,” was a waiting period literally held under a tree in each village. There team member Tony Janda shared the Gospel of faith in Jesus with patients. Stage three comprised the actual dental work, and stage four was a trip to the pharmacy.

The team held a clinic in Kobwin, where a 45-acre rehabilitation center is being built by New Hope Uganda. The team provided dental care for more than 175 men, women, and children who had severe tooth problems. Steve shared that in Kobwin, one Ugandan father responded to the Gospel message and then brought his family to the site so they could hear as well. After spending four days in Kobwin, the team moved to Amuria, an isolated area in the northwestern part of Uganda. Dr. Bill Mays, one of the MRI dentists, commented on the severity of dental issues he encountered there: “I have been to many places in the world, and this is the worst area I have seen for dental problems.” The residents of Amuria were reluctant to see the team go. Steve related, “They stood



Dr. Bill Mays from MRI and Emma Manalo from CC South conduct dental work on a woman in Amuria, Uganda.

at the doorway of the clinic and kept asking us to continue. The needs were overwhelming.” At their final clinic in Kasana, the team treated more than 160 people.

The believers prayed with many Ugandans and saw numerous answers to their prayers.

In one case a tooth that needed to be extracted could not be removed after more than 15 minutes of effort. Tori Reese, a dental assistant who was part of the team, asked CC South believers to pray for help. Immediately after the believers prayed, the tooth came out.

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Emma Manalo plays with an orphan at New Hope Uganda’s Kasana Children’s Center.



Team members teach village children how to brush their teeth.



Tony Janda of CC South shares the Gospel with a Ugandan woman under the “Tree of Life” before she enters the team’s dental clinic in Kobwin, Uganda.

Calvary Chapel Kaharlyk, Ukraine, Firebombed

Story by Debra Smith, Photos by Micah Claycamp



The damaged room hosted Sunday school classes, youth events, English lessons, and aerobics. The fire smoldered for hours instead of igniting the floor.

Shortly after rising one morning in October, Olya Zschech remarked to her husband that she smelled smoke. Arriving promptly in response to their call, a fire response team quickly discovered the source of the smell—a Molotov cocktail had been thrown into the church, which doubles as their home.

Calvary Chapel Kaharlyk is located in the small town of Kaharlyk, Ukraine, just south of Kiev. The church of about 60 was planted more than nine years ago. The founding team included Pastor Wayne Zschech, originally of Australia, and his Ukrainian wife, Olya. They and their three children now live in the church building in central Kaharlyk.



Pastor Wayne

The homemade explosive device was tossed into the children's ministry room while the family was asleep. Officials believe the attack probably occurred around 5:00 am and that the explosive simply smoldered for several hours instead of igniting. Wayne explained, "If it had been thrown into any other room, the damage could have been much greater and the threat to life very real." The room has a linoleum and particleboard floor, unlike the other rooms that just have a wooden floor. "If the cocktail had ignited the wooden flooring in any other room, we may have all died from smoke inhalation," Wayne added.

The Zschechs are praising God for His protection. Additionally, their newborn infant was sleeping next to a window with a jammed protection shield. "I fixed that

window today!" commented Wayne on the afternoon of the attack.

The perpetrators spray-painted the phrase "Out with Sects" and the name of a Ukrainian nationalist movement beside the window they threw the cocktail through. Wayne explained, "Any church not orthodox is considered a sect here." Because some view the Orthodox Church

as an emblem of Ukrainian national identity, nationalism's disdain for foreigners can extend to hatred of all non-orthodox. "We are probably the only foreigners in town, and we're centrally located," said Wayne. "So it makes sense they'd choose us to attack." He explained that the statement could be paraphrased into English as, "Foreigners, get out of town."

The attack was shocking to the Zschechs and the local authorities. "The Kaharlyk region's head of police visited later in the day," said Wayne. "He said this sort of thing had never happened in our town before."

When the Zschechs and others first began holding house meetings, they felt the authorities purposely hindered them from spreading the Gospel. However, when the church

was officially registered with the government in 2000, that changed. "We had eight years of absolute freedom," said Wayne. Last year the church experienced a rash of broken windows, but the culprit was discovered before inflicting any major damage.

Also ministering in Kaharlyk are Danny and Liese Foote and Micah and Christy Claycamp. Micah is the son of Pastor Bob Claycamp of CC North Phoenix, AZ. The missionaries began a biodiesel fuel project that has provided income for locals while teaching Christian business values.

Wayne was ordained by Pastor George Markey, who pioneered the Calvary Chapel movement in the Ukraine. Wayne said of the attack, "God does whatever is best, even when that may not be comfortable for us—and that's okay." ↩

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The firemen pack their equipment after dousing the smoldering fire.

"The Word" Bible Software

A newly updated version of "The Word" Bible Software is available online for free download. Costas Stergiou, a Greek believer and professional software engineer, began developing the software in 2002. According to Costas, the vision for the product is "to provide top quality software to aid fellow believers in the teaching and proclamation of God's Word, free of charge."

The free download at www.thewordbiblesoftware.com provides numerous free resources. In addition, a CD or preloaded USB flash drive is available for a donation and contains a larger collection of resources.

The CC Costa Mesa School of Ministry recently hosted a free workshop on using the software. The workshop was open to the public and taught by Douglas Hamp, assistant pastor at CC Costa Mesa and teacher at the School of Ministry. Doug is working with Costas on continuing updates to the software.

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