

2005 Palliative Care Conference - Jinja

Sovereign Wings of Hope Ministries Inc.
Launching Hospice Jinja program



Uganda "Mission" Trip Report

By

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Palliative & End of life Conference Jinja Uganda, 2005

Theme: Completing the palliative care Cycle

The initiative:

In early of 2003 a group of Ugandan and American health care providers in Houston, held a discussion to embark on partnering with developing countries in the area of palliative care. They envisioned holding palliative care conferences and on hands hospice delivery education that will enhance their counterpart in the End of Life Education. Joy Situka, a nurse by professional, volunteered to travel to Uganda, to do feasibility study on our first project.

Dr Kurt Merkel, the former Vitas Hospice Medical Director in-Houston, was assigned to design the conference program contents. Chaplain Daniel Situka was tasked to design the organizations and coordinate the projects and the. Sovereign Wings of Ministries Inc, a Daniel's charitable public tax exempt (501) (3) (C) organization was tasked to help in raising funds for the projects.

On her return Joy, recommended that we need to partner with Dr Anne Merriman of Hospice Africa. Dr. Merriman has an enormous influence on palliative care in whole Africa. Dr Merriman agreed and she assigned Mrs. Rose Kiwanuka, her best leading light to help us with the project. With Rose's help we identified Jinja District, Busoga region as an area with a critical need of a hospice program. Her team recommended the Nile Resort Hotel in Jinja as the venue for our conference

The objective of the trip was to participate in a conference and to establish a model hospice program in Jinja. In partnership with Hospice Africa and the Palliative Care of Uganda, we envisioned to attract 300 participants from all over Uganda and overseas.

The goal was to convene a three day palliative care conference with participants from the 72 districts in Uganda, to nurture the seed of palliative care in the region and to launch Hospice Jinja.

Many local pastors, healthcare workers and nurses attended. A core of local business people and government officials donated time and funds to implement the project.



Figure 1 Map of Uganda showing area of our operations

With the help of the Uganda palliative care community representatives, we were able to recruit enough health care workers to attend the conference.

Funding for the project came from friends like Dr Kurt Merkelz, Mr. Tim O'Toole, Mrs. Pat Seith, Holli Hallmark RN, Dr Bakama, Mrs. Gabriel Housom RN, Mrs. Bonnie Pengura, Mrs. Robin Fiorelli, Mr. Larry McDermott, RN, Dr Nehiel Rojas, Dr David Small, Christ EPC, Vitas Hospice staff from various programs, The Metropolitan Baptist, Redeemed Church -Uganda, Hospice Africa, PCUA, Madhivani group-Uganda, National Water & Sewage Corporation, Ministry of Health, The Wings of Hope International, St. Fatima Catholic Church, cell phone donors, the Situka family; and from many well-wishers and prayer partners., The report reflects the project outcome and accomplishment, in 2003-2005.

Fourteen health caregivers from USA had originally signed up to participate in the *Mission* trip to Uganda. But due to personal career changes, family and global unforeseen changes, a number of them could not risk the trip. It was a testing time. Fund-raising was dawdling; many people in the developing country could hardly envision hospice success in Africa

The trip:

I began the trip on 4th of August, 2005. It takes sixteen hours to travel to Uganda, but it took me four days! At time of my departure I found out that my 1994 Uganda passport did not meet the after 9/11 international guidelines. I had to fly to Washington DC at the Uganda Embassy to process a new one. Graciously the Uganda Embassy officials promptly granted the documents to enable travel..

Whilst proceeding with the trip and after going through the US immigration, I learned that the plane could not take off due "a mechanical problem". It was not until August 6th when I departed from Dulles Airport. But, while in London, I learned that it was a terrorist threat attack that delayed us. I safely made it to Uganda on 7th at 11.00pm. When I arrived, my ride to Jinja had left. I had to stay in Kampala. With only three hours of sleep I proceeded to Jinja the next morning for the conference.

The conference:

The conference was well attended and it made a great impact on the community. The Mayor of Jinja city, Mr. David Wakudumira and many distinguished local leaders were present. We had 297 participants from 72 districts plus 35 organizing organizations; like Hospice Africa, PACU, Association of Palliative Care of Africa, TASO, Mildmay, Kitovu Mobile Home Care, Little Hospice Hoima, Teso AIDS Program (TAP), AIM, NACWOLA, People Living with HIV/Aids in rural areas, Joy Hospice Mbale, Hospice Mbarara, Uganda Armed Forces and many other many other palliative groups. The Uganda government designated Dr. Jacinto Amandua; the Commissioner of Clinic Services to open the conference. The Kyabazinga designated Mr. Steven Bewayo, the assistant Katikiro (Prime Minister)



Figure 2 Left APCA president Dr Kathleen Defilipi addressing the conference

South Africa hospices and the Acting World Health Organization Representative to Uganda, Dr. Rosemund Lewis, were present. Seeing the collaboration of all these groups was very touching. It exhibited a great spirit of cooperation among the Uganda healthcare givers.

List of some of the Speakers

- Dr Lydia Mpanga MD Director PCUA,
- Dr Karen Frame (Hospice Africa),
- Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell MD- APCA,
- Dr Anne Merrimann MD (Hospice Africa),
- Dr. Erika Kikule MD/ DR Jack Jagwe
- Dr Esther Acheng (WHO)
- Dr Kathleen Defilipi (APCA/HPCA)
- Professor Barbara Jack (Liverpool University)
- Dr Fitzgerald (USG Pefar)
- Rev Daniel Situka, Vitas & SOWH
- Dr Tiberius Muhebwa (GFATM)
- Mr. Dan Wamanya USAID
- Ms. Julia Downing-Mildmay,
- Dr. Jacinto Amandua Ministry of Healthy
- Dr Runumi MOH
- Prof. Keith McAdam-IDI,
- Dr. Janet White-Mbale Hospice,
- Dr. Carl Simmons (Kitovu),
- Dr Emmanuel, Dr Katongole Mbidde (UVRI),
- Dr. Luyirika (Mildmay)
- Dr Alex Coutinho & Dr Lydia Mungherera (TASO)
- Dr Yahaya Sekaggya
- Dr Alma Stella Talisuna, Reach Out.

Category

- Standard in Palliative care
- Assessments
- Palliative Care in a changing environment
- Nurturing the seed of Palliative Care
- ABC of need assessment

- Palliative care for HIV in South Africa
- UK Palliative care experiences

- The spiritual role in Hospice care
- Global Fund
- PEPFAR ABC Funding
- ABC Monitoring & evaluation
- Government policy on palliative care
- ABC Funding

- Integrating community

- Home Bases Model

- Impact of holistic distribution of ARV's

Dr Edward Ssemafumu AIM,
Dr Mirioce Namuyuga & Dr Benon Wanume MD
Ms. Grace Oling TASO
Ms Joy Kalybera
Fr. Peter Mubiru and many others

Jinja Hospital,
Integrations of Palliative care into HIV/AIDS
The Role of Adherence in Palliative care
The challenge from Traditional Healers



Dr. Frame presenting



Rev. Situka presenting



Figure 3 Ms. Julia Downing presenting





Figure 4, Uganda government representative, Dr Amandua cutting the ribbon

On August 8th 2005 Dr. Jacinto Amandua MD, officially launched the Rays of Hope – Hospice Jinja. The program will meet the hospice & palliative care critical needs for HIV/AIDS and cancer patients in the Busoga region. Patients that had been traveling eighty miles to go to Kampala for palliative care medicine, can now have access to the hospice care in Jinja. With your initial investment of \$30,000 donations, the project is worthwhile and will make a difference in this community.



Figure 6 Dr Merriman # Dr. J Amandua visiting Hospice Jinja patients

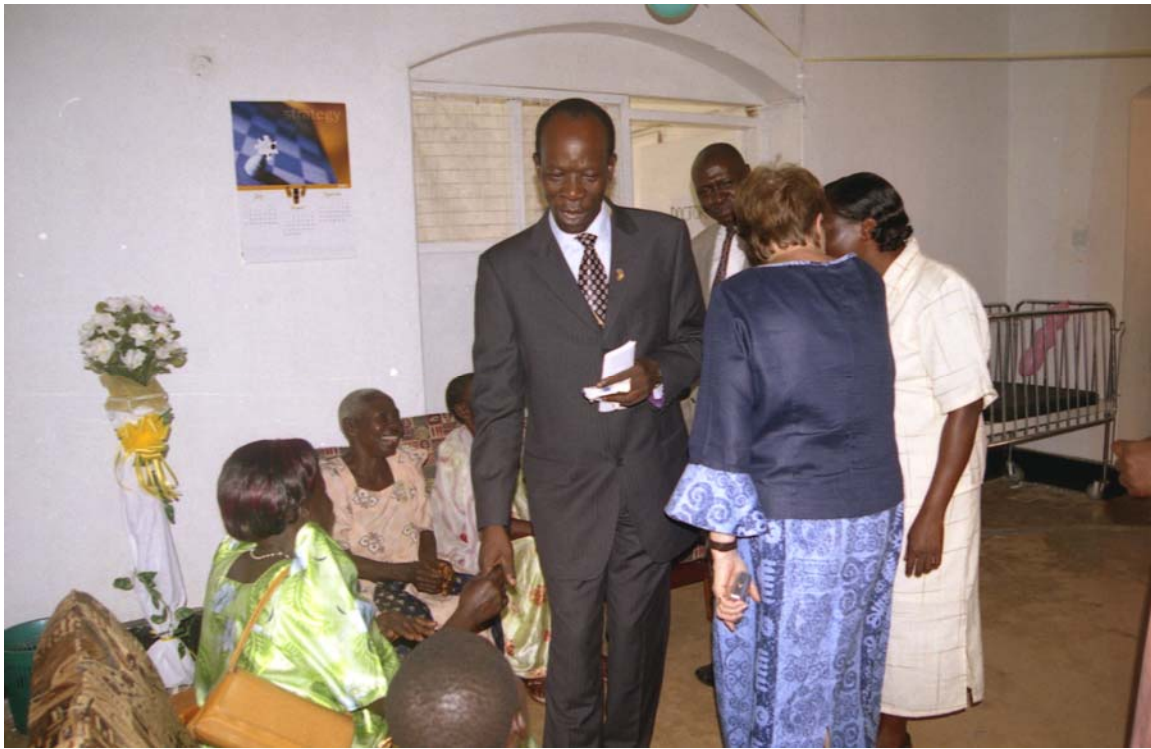


Figure 6 Dr Merriaman witnessing the Planting a hospice tree of pain control at Hospice Jinja center
Summary:



At the closing of the conference, a number of volunteers committed their time and skills to work with Hospice Jinja until we get enough money to hire full time staff. Among them were a Dr Mirioce Namuyuga MD, a surgeon at Jinja Hospital, Dr Benon Wanume MD, the medical director of Jinja hospital, two registered nurse nuns; a social worker and many others. Dr Merriman and Hospice Africa staff is helping in training them in palliative care delivery. The WHO and the government offered Hospice Jinja with all the oral morphine that our patients may need, for free.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support, skills, and time contributions that made this project a success. The Jinja Community is grateful for what your gracious act.

We met our first objectives for the 2005, *mission trip*: the conference was successful and Hospice Jinja was established. By the time I was writing of this report, I learned that Hospice Jinja small beginning was featured on Africa focus voices of Hospice, BBC Africa on October 5th. However, we still have a bigger challenge ahead of us. That is to maintain the program.

This home based program is in need of operation funding to buy medicine, office supplies, pay utility bills, a vehicle for our staff and financial reimbursement for our volunteer's travel expenses. Many of our patients are extremely poor. They cannot afford to pay for the basic medical supplies that they need. We desperately need to raise the \$30,000 balance toward 2005/2006 Budget. I need your help to locate the funding. If you know someone, a church, club, association, corporation that has a caring heart and desire to help, please let us know.



Figure 7 Patients at Hospice Jinja

Thank you,
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