

St. Nektarios Orthodox Medical Center  
Akonyibedo, Uganda

A joint outreach of St. Philip the Apostle Orthodox Church Tampa, Florida  
and the Orthodox Church of Uganda

Our Medical Center in northern Uganda, located about 45 miles south of the South Sudan border operates 24/7 with a staff of 10. Fr. George, a Ugandan Orthodox priest, continues as our administrator.

The Corona virus is present in Uganda but on a scale much lower than the U.S. This is due to the draconian measures taken by the government. As soon as the first case was detected the entire country went into lockdown. The border was sealed and Uganda's only airport ceased operations. While helping to contain the virus, the airport lockdown which included all cargo flights caused the cost of medicines of all types to skyrocket. Last November Entebbe Airport reopened for cargo flights but the country remains in total lockdown.

The medical center continues to treat many diseases and especially malaria and intestinal worms. At the height of malaria season it is common for the Center to put two patients in one bed and even on the floor if necessary.

In January we opened our quadruplex residence for four families of our staff. Now our two nurse/midwives and our two clinicians live on our property with their families. Each unit contains 250 (sic) square feet. Each resident staff member is on call at all times.

Concurrent with the residence construction we had built a medical waste incinerator four times the size of our original one. The center is so busy that it is generating that much medical waste.

Our vaccination program together with our pre- and post- natal programs is making inroads against an infant mortality rate that is ten times that of the U.S.

The staff regularly visit outlying villages to conduct simultaneous medical clinics and health education.

God willing, I will return to Uganda as soon as I have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and the Ugandan government lifts the lockdown.

On behalf of our patients and staff thank you to all who continue to support the Medical Center.