

Yotkom Newsletter

May 2024



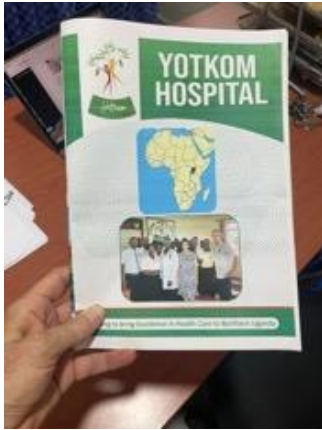
Patrick is a young boy who suffered a serious eye injury. He attended our community rural eye outreach recently and was one of many examined and assessed by Sarah Warlow, a visiting Australian Optometrist.

Yotkom sponsored Patrick and his mother to travel to Kampala for **Paediatric eye surgery**.

He has returned today and describes a significant improvement in sight and no pain.



In our **orthopaedic wards** we are seeing the results of a tropical wet season and the abundance of ripening mangos. Many children climb trees to retrieve these tasty delicacies but unfortunately they sometimes fall and break bones which need setting and, in some cases, operative internal fixation to prevent permanent disability.



This month we created a printed booklet to share, outlining the various ministries of Yotkom and containing some information about the numbers of people we are reaching here.

Here are some of the facts we discovered in the process of writing:

1. Yotkom Hospital receives patients from about 6 surrounding districts of Uganda and several parts of South Sudan. The catchment population is over 4 million.
2. Last year we recorded 21,000 outpatient visits and had over 4000 admissions to our Hospital
3. Last year we provided safe birthing for 270 women and access to life-saving Caesarian Section for 70.
There were 1760 antenatal visits made to receive midwife check-ups.
4. In our child health clinic and on outreaches , we give about 700 childhood vaccinations per month which protect against conditions like Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Measles, Hepatitis , Yellow fever, Tuberculosis and more.
5. Our twice weekly FM talk back radio broadcast, “ Tembo Doctor”, reaches over one million listeners with health information and prevention.
6. We have three chaplains who actively respond to mental health issues in the community such as anxiety, depression, PTSD and gender -based violence.
7. The Yotkom laboratory is a busy place providing helpful test results to our doctors to assist them in diagnosis and decision making.
We perform about 1500 tests per month in the lab and undertake about 150 blood transfusions per month which regularly save lives of children with malaria

and mothers with bleeding in pregnancy as well as serious trauma cases.

8. Approximately 500 X rays and 600 Ultrasounds are performed each month in our Medical imaging department.

Thank you to our regular donors in Australia who give generously each month to sustain these diverse health services.

Monthly donations provide approximately 35% of the running costs of our hospital.

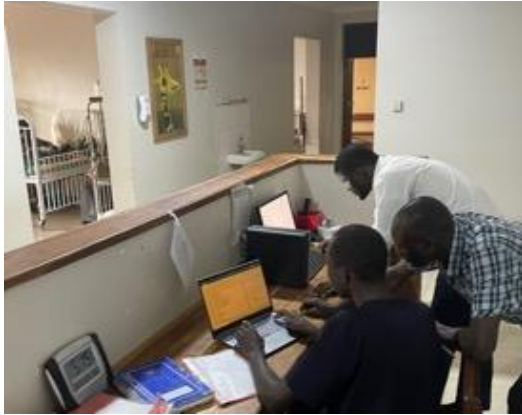
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Yotkom has an active **scholarship and training program** to equip and empower local gifted students to study in health sciences. This week we are celebrating with Isaac who graduated as a Physiotherapist and will be spear-heading a unique service to the North Eastern part of Uganda. He will help many people with chronic diseases and disabilities as well as treat acute musculoskeletal problems and post-operative patients in the wards.



Working on the equator means our hospital can be affected by some fierce natural disasters. Last evening a violent storm hit our district and the front office of our main hospital building had a direct lightning strike. Our employees were very shaken up... and the guard threw away his rifle when it started “buzzing”. Fortunately, no one was electrocuted but our whole hospital network received a surge of high voltage which knocked out and damaged many of our computers and monitors. We are now facing some major disruption to our ability to operate in key areas including billing and medical records. We are unable to take X rays, and even pump water to our buildings. We are praying that our technicians can restore normality quickly

and that the costs to repair and replace equipment will not be too great...but it is very challenging to us.
If you can help us respond to this unexpected financial demand, please **target a gift to “storm damage”**.



We are currently facing a particular need to replace old equipment in our laboratory used for biochemical analysis: electrolytes, liver and renal function.



A new machine purchased in Uganda will cost \$15,000 AUD.
If you would like to help us reach this target, please mark your donation **“Laboratory”**

Thank you for taking the time to read about life here in Northern Uganda.
We send greetings from all the team at Yotkom Hospital.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting us, praying for us and giving toward meeting the big needs here.

God Bless.

Dr. Andrew Wright
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Australian Bank details :
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