

A Second Chance

I want to share a story with you about a man I was fortunate to help in Uganda. We were conducting a medical clinic in Layibi, a village about thirty minutes outside of Gulu. We all had worked hard all day fitting people for reading glasses. That day we prescribed more than 85 pairs of glasses to



these wonderful people. It was starting to get dark and our team thought it smart to get everything loaded in the van and get out of the community while we could still see clearly down the long, rugged, dirt road. As we were about to leave, an old man came up to me and asked if I could fit him for a pair of reading glasses. I told him that we were finished for the day and all the equipment was packed up in the van and we were about to leave. He said, "I really need some glasses." I thought that maybe I could try to help him before we all loaded up, but he said that his eyes hurt and

he needed to see a doctor. However, the line to see the doctor had been closed for at least an hour, so there was no way to get him in. He was disappointed but I did not want to get him glasses without first seeing the doctor. I asked if I could pray for him but he said no because he did not get to see the doctor nor did he receive any glasses. He asked if I would be back tomorrow and I told him that we would be at another location that was at least thirty miles away. The man got on his old bicycle and rode away.

The next day our team arrived at the next site that we would conduct our clinic. Again, we were helping people left and right and our clients were so excited about their new glasses. Then, an old man came in holding his small bible and asked to be fitted for a pair of glasses. I looked at him and said, "You look familiar to me, have we served you already?" The man said, "No, I tried to get glasses yesterday, but you guys were finished for the day." At that moment, I realized that this was the same old man we did not serve in Lyibi the day before. I welcomed him and asked him how he got to the clinic. He said that he got up early that morning and rode his beat up, old bicycle so that he could see the doctor and get fitted for glasses. I took special care of this patient because I certainly wanted to make sure he got the right strength glasses so he could see small writing. After I gave him the reading glasses test and fitted him with a sharp new pair of glasses, the man shared with me that he had not been able to read his bible for the past couple of years and now he could get back in the Word. I asked the man to open his bible and read a verse to make sure the words were crystal clear. He opened his bible and based on his smile, his vision was never more vivid. I allowed this man to pick out two pairs of reading glasses and a pair of sunglasses to protect his eyes while riding his bike. Like the day before, I asked the man if I could pray for him and he said yes. That was the moment I felt closest to God. There is nothing like serving! Thanks for the opportunity to make a difference in this man's life.

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