

# *All the Rage* from the Church of Uganda

# COURAGE

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## **Bunyoro-Kitara Health Centre Wins Award**

Bunyoro-Kitara's Diocesan Health Centre, the Azur Christian Health Centre, recently received the 2009 Public Integrity Award from INFOC-Uganda. The Azur Christian Health Centre is a Health Centre III located in Hoima near the Diocesan offices.



Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa shared the good news of this award with his diocesan staff during their normal morning devotions on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August. He said, "This is our testimony. Not that we are special or good, but that we are the presence of Jesus in this community. This is evangelism. God is good and He cares. When Jesus came, the Bible says that he came, 'preaching, teaching, and healing.' So, we continue Jesus' healing ministry today."

INFOC-Uganda stands for Interfaith-Based Action for Ethics and Integrity. INFOC-Uganda is a coalition of faith-based academicians, institutions, organizations, groups and individuals who come together to advocate and build ethics and integrity. Their Public Integrity Award was initiated to reward exemplary public service.

In February 2009, INFOC-Uganda appraised 21 of the 22 Health Centre III's in Hoima District through funding received from the Government of Uganda's Anti-Corruption Threshold Country Program (ACT) which is funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation of the United States of America and overseen by USAID.

INFOC-Uganda's assessment of Hoima District's Health Centre III's focused on the following areas:

- Standards of accountability and transparency
- Staff attendance and time management
- Patient privacy
- Appropriateness in treatment
- Adequate storage facilities for drugs
- Presence and use of expired drugs
- Cleanliness and hygiene practices in the facilities
- Timeliness of salaries
- Accessibility of treatment



Bunyoro-Kitara's Azur Christian Health Centre received the highest ranking of all the Health Centre III's in Hoima District. Their notable achievements include the following:

One hundred percent (100%) of the Azur Christian Health Centre's staff report for work on most days of the week. Their duty roster is displayed and attendance registers were available for inspection. This is in contrast to 80% of the District's Health Centre III's, which do not have updated attendance books, and typically have only one person staffing the clinic. INFOC-Uganda reported, "It was found that Health workers in the other clinics agree and share days of the week when they would show up at work such that it gives the others time allowance to do their private work."



The Azur Christian Health Centre is open all day, on weekends, and on public holidays. This is in contrast to 85% of the District's Health Centre III's that are not open in the afternoons, weekends, or on public holidays.

The Azur Christian Health Centre is constructed in such a way as to ensure patient privacy when meeting with a health care worker and being examined by a doctor. This is in contrast to 60% of the other Health Centre III facilities which permit other patients to easily listen to Doctor-Patient discussions.



Azur Christian Health Centre has an adequate supply of manuals for reference in order to determine appropriate treatment. The clinic also has laboratory equipment, chemicals, and trained personnel to assist in competent diagnosis and treatment. This is in contrast to 75% of the other Health Centre III's that did not have diagnosis and treatment reference manuals. Likewise, 85% of the other Health Centre III's did not have laboratory equipment, chemicals, or trained personnel for lab testing.



Azur Christian Health Centre voluntarily presented their financial records and reports before being asked. They have a trained finance officer who is overseen by a trained Administrative Manager. This is in contrast to 90% of the other Health Centre III's that are managed only by the In-Charge who has only a medical background. The funds at the other clinics are spent at the discretion of the In-Charge and there is no evidence of minutes approving allocations of funds.



Azur Christian Health Centre has a spacious store for drugs, with updated stock cards and proper dispensing records. They practice timely procurement of drugs in high demand in order to avoid running out of stock. This is in contrast to 70% of the other Health Centre III's that report regular and serious outages of drugs and 80% of the clinics that have no record on display of drugs in stock.

Patients visiting the Azur Christian Health Centre know what treatments are available, and the number of patients treated has steadily increased from 3,241 in 2004 to 14,302 in 2008 – a 341% increase. One hundred percent (100%) of the patients expressed a willingness to pay for the health services at Azur without reservation. They indicated satisfaction with the quality of services rendered and claimed that it is worth the value for the money they pay. This is in contrast to the other Health Centre III's in the District, where patients are not sure of the services available at the clinic. At one Health Centre III, by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 the Health Centre had not registered any delivery since August 2008, and yet the Health Centre had a maternity wing!

The Azur Christian Health Centre is very clean, both in private and public areas. The beds in the maternity and labor wards were clean, had mattresses, and the blankets were in good condition. This is in contrast to the other Health Centres which were very dirty. An employee at one of the other Health Centres remarked, "We shall clean the Health Centre when the rains come." Yet, the place was covered in vomit.



The Azur Christian Health Centre began on land donated to Bunyoro-Kitara Diocese by a Princess of the Bunyoro Kingdom who was a nurse. There was one small building on a large plot of land.

At the time when Bishop Nathan was elected Bishop he was in the USA for ministry. He spoke with an American businessman called Chris Azur about renovating the building and establishing a Health Centre. He contributed some funds which enabled the Diocese to renovate the building and get the clinic going. Named after this compassionate businessman, the Azur Christian Health Centre is now 85% self-supporting.



When asked about the key to the clinic's success, Bishop Nathan said, "We sent Joseph, our Administrator, to CORAT Africa in Nairobi for a two-month course in health care administration." Since then, two other staff members have finished health management courses at CORAT Africa.

Joseph, the Health Centre Administrator, said, "I thank my Lord Bishop that he sent me to CORAT Africa. One thing I learnt was stewardship. We as a church have all the resources. We need to be careful in how we use our resources. Accountability and transparency are very important, and when we see the fruit, it motivates us."

The Azur Christian Health Centre is a Christian ministry. They have a Chaplain and a Chapel. The offerings received in the Chapel go directly into a fund to subsidize health services for clients who cannot pay.

Congratulations to Bunyoro-Kitara Diocese and the Azur Christian Health Centre for a job well done! For information about INFOC-Uganda, contact 0312 265 611. For information about the Azur Christian Health Centre, contact 0362 273 208 or 0456 442 923.

## **Church of Uganda – A Christ-centred Church Equipped for Transforming Mission among People.**

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