The lived experience of nurses in rural Uganda

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Disclosure

• Linda Johanson, RN, EdD, CNE
• Learner objectives
  – The learner will be able to verbalize the experiences of the nurse living in rural Uganda
  – The learner will compare and contrast the experience of the rural Ugandan nurses with personal professional practice
• The author has no conflicts of interests
• Employer: Appalachian State University in Boone, NC (Associate Professor)
• No sponsorship or commercial support has been given to the author
The emergence of the research question

International Health Teams Ministry

- Mission is Christian evangelization of unreached people of the world through ministrations of short term healthcare teams
Uganda
Partnership with local missionaries in Kasubi

AIDS support program
Child sponsorship program
Churches
Schools
Medical clinics
Uganda,
Congo, Sudan, Rwanda
Construction ministries
Team travels to rural areas, Establish mobile medical clinics
Medical, dental, eyes, teaching
Unique stories: victims of insurgencies
Lack of services
Extreme poverty
AIDS and malaria
Our accommodations...
The nurse’s home
Qualitative study: The lived experience of nurses in rural Uganda

• IRB approval/ informed consent
• What is it like to be a nurse in rural Uganda?
• Taped interviews with seven nurses
• Transcribed and analyzed for themes
Theme 1: Perseverance out of a desire to help others

“When one comes with some severe illness, you treat them, you welcome them, it comforts them”
“You got little salary, no motivation, but you just do it because it’s your call”
Theme 2: The nursing profession is notable and respected

“The people respect us because we do some difficult work”
They respect nurses because it comes when you give tender, loving care. It means a lot
Theme 3: The rural nurses in Uganda build meaningful relationships and nurture hope

“I have no day off but when my colleague is around she is my help”
Hope against odds

“I see many people suffering, and I followed in nursing. People are helped.”
Parallels to practice

• Facing staffing shortages, dealing with serious illness, working conditions inadequate

• Focus on the service
• Remember the profession is respected
• Build meaningful relationships
• Maintain hope.
Questions?