



GLORIA SMETHERS

Gloria Smethers has been working with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) for 34 years as of September 2019. She first went to Congo (formerly Zaire) from 1985-1996 as a nurse. During her years there she worked in the operating room, helped in the maternity and for one year did necessary bookkeeping in the local hospital nursing school. Due to political unrest and escalated violence AIM removed their missionaries from Zaire for a period of time. For 8 months in 1997 she assisted in the care of elderly AIM missionaries at the Retirement Center in Central Florida.

For a period of 6 months in 1998 she returned to Rethy, Zaire to work with a few AIM missionaries, but the unrest had not subsided. At that point it was obvious that she and other missionaries would not be able to return to Zaire. The Lord opened up the avenue to ministry in Northern Kenya after obtaining her Kenyan RN license in 1999. At that time she

worked, still nursing, but doing Community Health and teaching Sunday school. The work in Northern Kenya is among a traditionally nomadic peoples, the Gaabra. Their livelihood is based on the livestock-camels, goats and sheep and donkeys. The small villages live a mobile existence looking for grass and water for themselves and their animals. Due to government requirement for education of the present generation their livelihood and culture are changing fast. More and more people are becoming sedentary and less- nomadic. The present generation is getting some education and moving away from their traditional beliefs and customs. Gloria lived on an AIM compound along with other missionaries seeking to ministry to the people around them. The gospel has been here since late 70's, but just now individuals are starting to understand the meaning of be committed to Christ.

Presently(2019), the church is being led by Gaabra folks as there are no longer expats living at Kalacha, but the Lord is there and waiting for them to focus on HIM. Continue to pray for more Gaabra to come to the Lord as Saviour!

2009-2012, the Lord led Gloria to Rift Valley Academy to work as one of the staff nurses at the AIM boarding school. This is the same school that she graduated from "some years ago"... In 2012 Gloria returned to the States for home assignment. September 2013, Gloria moved to Central Florida to be one of two nurses with AIM at their Retirement center in Minneola, Florida (near Orlando). As of September 2019, she will complete 6 years at the Retirement center as one of the nurses. The retirement center has 80 residents from late 60s to 97years in age. Most of the residents live in their own homes with 12 of them living in the boarding facility on the property, named Scott Manor (named after the man who started AIM in 1895, Peter Cameron Scott). Most of my time is spent caring for medical needs, going to the doctor's appointments, picking up medications from Walgreens or CVS, answering insurance questions, visiting residents in hospital or nursing home, and going to ER when emergency arises. It is really neat to have a number of retirees here who were staff members

when I was in grade school or high school. Others were co-workers in Zaire when I was there. Thus it is a wonderful opportunity to give back to them for their in-put into my life!!!! The Lord has truly blessed me that way! Also the retirement center is a place of prayer support for AIM. Praise the Lord and thanks for everyone who have faithfully given towards my support for many years, or write me letters and emails. I so appreciate your love and faithful friendship and service to the Lord. God bless each of you.

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<https://aimint.org/retirementcenter/>