



## Paul & Tania Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,  
Luwero Diocese, Uganda

**Christmas 2012**



CMS Ireland **Link Letter**

### **Dear Friends...**

It never ceases to amaze us just how many people come through Kiwoko. We have a constant turnaround of teams, volunteers, elective students and guests.

The last few months saw a team come to work alongside our mission team and a group of electricians and handy men rewiring the hospital. In November a team came from the Ulster Hospital to work in our Lab, IT department, Maternity and Male wards. Amongst all that, we've had new short-term volunteers: Helen from Ballymena working in our Pharmacy, Jim from Oregon, USA working in our HIV department and Susan from Cambridge who will work in our adult wards.

It is my (Tania) role to ensure the arrival, settling in and feeding of all these teams and volunteers goes smoothly - well as smoothly as anything in Africa can go. Thankfully it is a constant reminder that God is in control and He loves his people. He loves the people of Kiwoko so much that He sends gifted people from all over the world to bring the necessary expertise and assistance. And He loves those He sends so much that He gives them this fantastic opportunity to serve Him, to rely on Him and learn from Him. I consider it a great privilege to help facilitate this part of God's great plan.

However there is only so much time you can spend with Muzungu and so it was with much delight that I (Tania) accepted the challenge to redecorate our Children's Ward, which apart from the cots, looked no different to all our adult wards in the hospital.

After discussion with the nurses on the ward we agreed on a Noah's Ark theme and various animals around the walls. This has been

completed with verses of scripture in L'uganda that offer encouragement to the patients on the ward.



It has caused much fascination for the children on the ward to watch me paint, with one particular little boy, studying my sketches and then making sure to point out to me any parts I had missed in the final painting. It has also been great to spend some time working on the ward, an opportunity I rarely get having no medical experience whatsoever. However having been told by many Ugandans that it was time I 'got' a baby, it has taken all my strength to not bring one home from the Children's Ward.



My (Paul's) role has been changing and evolving since day one. From the start I have tried to 'work myself out of a job' and in some ways this is happening. It is very rare that I actually get to 'fix stuff'. Instead I am trying to organise things so that the Ugandan staff, who are more than capable, can get things done more efficiently.

Creating relationships with suppliers in Kampala has been vital. Having contacts in the city who can quickly source vehicle, generator, electrical, IT and medical equipment parts for us seems to be the key to keeping things running well. Along with some new methods, we're beginning to see some real progress. The end result is ultimately improved patient care.

We have brought on some more technical staff. An additional Electrician, an IT intern/trainee to help Ronny who joined us a year ago, and a trainee mechanic to assist James. One of the

Hospital gardeners had been lending a hand with some plumbing work over the last year or two and seemed to have some natural ability. He has just been given the role of Plumber. The team is growing and it's all local talent.

Kiwoko Hospital is known as a teaching hospital. In the 'non-medical' side I am trying to have the same approach. Some of our trainees may not stay here for many years, instead opting for the attractions of the big city. But, at least they will have learned some different, hopefully better ways of working which can have a wider effect in Uganda.

From both of us, to all of you who read this...Happy Christmas and thank you for all your prayers.

**Paul and Tania**

### Prayer Points:

- Despite God teaching us over the last 5 years that he really does laugh at our plans; we have made some plans regarding our future here at Kiwoko. The aim is to return to Northern Ireland in July 2013 for 6 months to link up again with our supporting churches and friends and of course spend some time with family. We will then come back to Kiwoko in January 2014 for a second term of 2 ½ years. Please pray that we will follow God's will and plan in all this and continue to be willing to go where He sends us.
- In our remaining time this term pray that we will make the right decisions regarding where we should focus our work.
- Give thanks for the abundant rain Kiwoko has received this season and as the hottest and driest time of the year approaches pray that everyone has stored up water well and that some rain will still break through in January.



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