

Paul & Tania Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,
Luwero Diocese, Uganda



CMS Ireland Link Letter

Christmas 2013

Dear Friends...

It is now just weeks until we return for our second term at Kiwoko Hospital. We cannot believe how fast our six months at home have gone. We have loved spending quality time with our families and friends, so saying goodbye soon is going to be hard. But, we still have Christmas together for the first time in 3 years so we are really looking forward to the copious amounts of turkey, brussels sprouts and bad cracker jokes. Tania's Grandmother will be missed this Christmas but it was great to have five full months with her and we know we will see her again when we truly go home.



Of course, we have been travelling the length and breadth of Ireland to visit the many churches and organisations who support us and Kiwoko Hospital through prayer, friendship and finance. This has been a great privilege as we have met some amazing people who are working faithfully in their communities, and promoting mission at home and abroad. We have been humbled to realise just how many people have been praying for us over the last 3 years. It has dared us to be more courageous for God in our second term; knowing what powerful prayerful support we have behind us.

For our second term we have big plans but are well aware that God's ways are higher than ours and His plans may be very different. So we would love it if you would join us in praying for these ideas that God's will may be done.

1. People

We have been greatly challenged through many sources that our top priorities as Mission Partners should not be engineering or income generating projects. While we should strive to do these jobs to the best of our abilities in service to the King, our calling as Christians is to show God's love.

As we return to Kiwoko, we hope to concentrate on getting to know our Ugandan workmates, patients, neighbours and students more so we might better show them how much God loves them. Providing jobs and improving healthcare is great but as the apostle Paul pointed out, *without love, they are nothing*.

2. Discipleship

Jesus asked His followers to *"...go into all the world and make disciples"* (Matt 28v19). In our second term at Kiwoko we hope to extend our discipleship work.

Over the past three years we have employed more engineering staff, all of whom are young men, starting out in the world of work and service for God. Paul hopes to implement a discipleship program with these men, and others, in the form of small groups. The goal is that they then become disciple makers, organising similar groups.

Our time in Ireland has been really fruitful. Paul has been studying carpentry at the local College which will be a great skill to have in Kiwoko, and for life. Tania has enjoyed a cookery class and looks forward to sharing her new dishes with friends and visitors to the hospital. The cookery course has also been a lovely opportunity to spend more time with my sister Olivia who attended with me. We both also completed a course at Belfast Bible College on Development in Mission and a four-week study with our own Pastor on Discipleship. Both these classes gave us a lot to consider and prepare for our return to Kiwoko.

3. Fashion & Tailoring School

Having seen the difference that the Craft Project at Kiwoko has made in the lives of the ladies involved, Tania aims to introduce a new project which will give opportunities to teenage girls who have not completed school or earned the necessary grades to do further education elsewhere.

Our Craft Project provides more than just an income; it brings dignity and a sense of community to women who have been rejected by society. This new project aims to bring the same hope and sense of purpose to young girls in Kiwoko.

In February 2014, Kiwoko will open its first Fashion and Tailoring School. This course will give local girls the opportunity for further education, in something considered 'fun' but also an extremely practical skill. In rural Uganda everyone still has their clothes made and altered so a local tailor is never without work. Plus, because we already have an established customer base for our craft project we will be able to provide a steady flow of work for the girls as well.

At present much preparation is going into the course including fundraising for the necessary equipment. We need to buy sewing machines, cutting tables, and are also aiming to raise £10,000 for a purpose built classroom to host the school. We have also greatly appreciated many donations of scissors, needles, zips

and threads etc. from colleges, churches and individuals in Ireland.

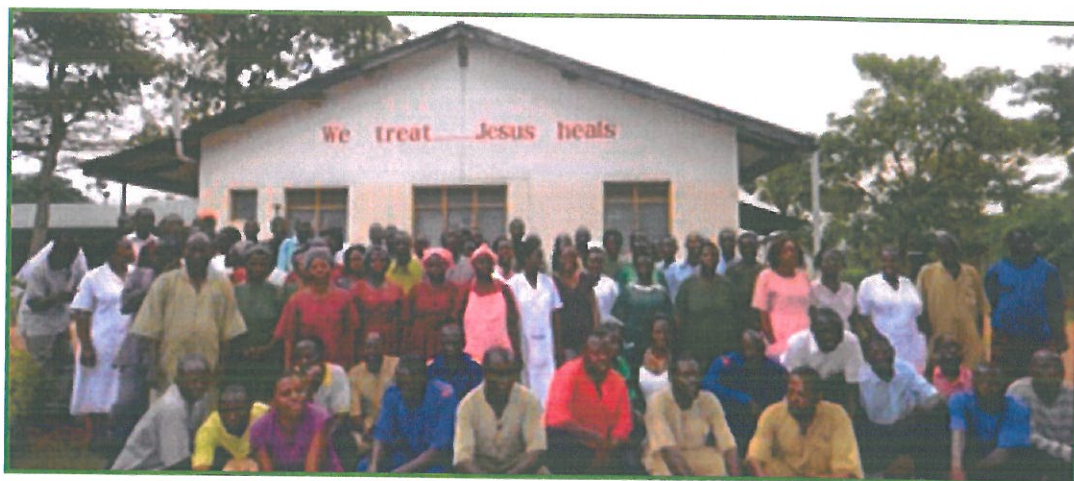
Since coming to Kiwoko, we have discovered our calling is to encourage the development of people - that they might come to believe in themselves the way God does, to see the potential God seems in them, and not to let anything hold them back from what God wants to do in their lives.

During our deputation tour we shared a short video clip featuring a wide range of staff from Kiwoko Hospital. This video was made to encourage every member of staff at the Hospital that they are all part of the motto; 'We Treat, Jesus Heals', and vital to God's mission in this part of Uganda. We hope this video also encourages you to become part of God's mission wherever you are. You can view the video on the homepage of CMS Ireland's website (www.cmsireland.org). Please contact the office if you'd like to download the video for use in your church.

Thank you so much for your prayers for us, Kiwoko Hospital, and our work there. We hope you have a good Christmas and are filled with wonder that God came to where we are, to ensure we could come to where He is.

Mukuma Yebazibwe!

Paul and Tania



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Dublin

Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue,
Rathmines, Dublin 6
T: +353 (0)1 4970931;
E: dublinoffice@cmsireland.org

Belfast

33 Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9JU
T: +44 (0)28 90775020;
E: belfastoffice@cmsireland.org