



Paul & Tania Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,
Luwero Diocese, Uganda



CMS Ireland Link Letter

Autumn 2014

Dear Friends...

Bringing home the bacon

Fred and Edith are good friends of ours. Fred is the Assistant Estates Manager and Edith is a Nurse. The story of how Edith completed her nursing training is inspirational, and a great example to all.

They were married in October 2008, and after only one month, Fred was bidding Edith a very tearful goodbye. She was off to Nursing School in Northern Uganda – a seven-hour bus trip away. It was Edith's dream to become a nurse and so Fred wanted to be sure this happened.

Fred sold his cherished motorcycle to pay the fees for Edith's first semester. With the small amount of money left over, he bought nine piglets for £5 each. His mother reared pigs when he was growing up so he knew how to take care of them. Since Fred was staying in hospital accommodation, he had nowhere to keep the pigs. So, he borrowed some land from a friend. There was a large mango tree which became the pigs' shelter, along with some simple fencing.

Six months later, just before Edith came home for her holidays, Fred sold the pigs. The profit he made was enough to pay for Edith's next semester and when he added his salary there was enough remaining to buy a small plot of land plus another 12 piglets. And off Edith went to school for another semester. On his new land he managed to set up a shelter for his pigs.



Another six months passed and before Edith came home he sold his 12 pigs, which paid for her next semester. He had saved as much of his hospital salary as he could and so he began building their family home.

After 2½ years of buying, rearing and selling pigs, Edith returned from school a fully qualified nurse. Not long after that, they moved into their new home, which Fred had built with his own hands. Now they live on their own land, mortgage free, with two beautiful young children (and a sty-full of pigs).



Fred is a fantastic example of someone who provides for his family. So often we meet people who make excuses, don't plan ahead, and end up with a crazy level of debt. We are inundated with requests for loans – people assume that we are rich because of our skin colour – in western terms we definitely are not, but here perhaps we are. Fred and Edith's story encourages us to help those who are in need – not by handing out loans, but by giving them advice on how to plan for the future, how to save and how to meet the needs of their family.

Development is very complicated. It's not just about 'teaching a man to fish' – it's about helping him take responsibility for himself, his family and their future.

Gospel first

From the beginning of this 2nd term in Uganda we have re-committed to making our main priority the spreading of the Gospel. As part of this, we've both become involved in various ministries within the hospital and also in our local church. We are both now on the preaching rota at 'Voice of Truth' and are making a concerted effort to work alongside the pastors and elders there.

Since we are the only non-Ugandans in this church it took us some time to feel 'equal and accepted' but our friends there are making a big effort to help us feel at home. The leadership is very good and we hope to continue to support them in glorifying God and leading others to Christ.

One thing we will never be able to change is the volume level. We had to obtain some ear defenders for Lana, the baby girl we are currently fostering. This has drawn some giggles and they became a useful illustration when Paul was preaching recently about the dangers of listening to a false gospel.

On the 'work' front, Paul is continuing to develop the engineering side of the Hospital. We are in the

process of replacing our 30+ year old x-ray machine, which came from Maghaberry Prison in Northern Ireland. We hope to install a new machine in the next few weeks. We are installing a new computer wifi system to cover the entire 25-acre site. The ongoing quest for a reliable mains electricity supply continues. After some pressure, recent investment by the national grid suppliers led to our best ever month of supply – our generators only had to run for 140 hours in the month of July - a new Kiwoko record!

As she now has her hands full with Lana, Tania has stepped back a little from some of her roles at Kiwoko. Denise Wilson (CMSI Mission Partner) now looks after short term teams who volunteer at the hospital and Suzanne Hansen (volunteer from the US) helps with the day to day running of the guest house. Tania still works with the HIV craft project on Wednesdays and the Fashion School on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support!

Paul and Tania

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Paul and Tania's role as foster parents for Lana and for God's guidance and blessing as they begin the process (in November) of securing legal guardianship. Pray that everything will go smoothly with the application as it is presented to local district officials.
- Pray for the hospital engineers as they carry out vital repairs to medical equipment so that medical staff can carry out their work more effectively. Pray for safety and wisdom in prioritising projects and for Paul's input into all of this work.
- Remember Tania's work with the ladies' craft project and the Fashion School. Pray for lives to be impacted and pray that many vulnerable women would be able to provide for their families.
- Pray that God would bless the various activities and ministries that Paul and Tania are involved in at the hospital and at church and that He would also bless the different relationships and encounters they have with others. Pray that this renewed commitment to sharing the Gospel will bear much fruit.



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