



Kiwoko Hospital News

July 2016

A word from the Medical Director

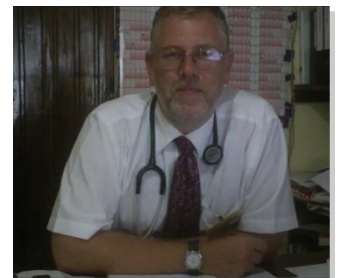
Special points of interest:

- Karamoja visit
- Bosco's reflections on Kiwoko's history
- 25-year celebrations: Key dates

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Special thanks to Dr Emma (volunteer doctor from Nottingham) who helped prepare this edition. It is a busy year ahead celebrating our birthday. We are using the community celebrations to strengthen the community health insurance schemes. These started years ago, but over the years enthusiasm has reduced. We are working hard to rejuvenate these schemes as a

means of encouraging timely access to healthcare for all. Our end of reporting year figures show that we are busier than ever yet again with over 8,000 admissions; 60,000 outpatient attendances; 3,000 deliveries and 12,000 immunisations. Kiwoko Hospital is a community as much as a hospital so it is good to share some of the events as well as the medicine that have taken

place in the last months. Thanks for reading and continuing to support us. As part of the wider Kiwoko hospital let me wish you a Happy 25th Birthday!



Dr Rory Wilson

Congratulations!

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Staff and loved ones gathered to celebrate the wedding of Hospital Technician, Tonny and nurse Grace in Luweero in April. *"We would like to thank God and the Kiwoko family for their great support towards our wedding financially, through advice and gifts. We are very grateful"*



Kiwoko Hospital News —25-year

25 years at Kiwoko: Bosco's perspective

Known to everyone as 'Bosco', Senoga Bosco has worked here at Kiwoko since the very beginning. He originally trained as a lay reader for the Anglican Church Namugongo, and met Ian Clarke when he was transferred to Kiwoko in July 1988. At that time there were "lots of people from the war and a big demand for health-care—many with wounds requiring first aid". The hospital progressed from being a first aid post to a dispensary, to a health centre then to a hospital over a period of just three years.

Bosco was the first person to be trained and during the week he worked as an interpreter, a pharmacist, a nurse and a counsellor offering guidance in terms of spiritual and mental health. At weekends he continued his work and "spread the word of Kiwoko as a preacher, going to different churches each Sunday. It was wonderful to see Kiwoko grow: the hand of God really was on this hospi-



tal." In 1991 the hospital was opened by Dr Samson Kiseeka who was the vice president of Uganda at the time.

Following some formal training as an HIV counsellor, Bosco provided outreach to the local community.

"We had just a mobile team and would go out to the people. It would build trust with them and save them the expense of coming here. There was a big need and we could not accommodate all of the people who needed our help. Before medication for HIV we would go out and teach a lot about nutrition, hygiene, family planning. We would go down to their

gardens and discuss agriculture and sometimes we would have dentists or vets come and join the team."

"They would call AIDS 'Slim disease' because it would make you very small like a skeleton. It was a death sentence and there was not much hope: most people would survive 2-3 years. When anti-retro-virals first came in they were very expensive, around 2 million shillings a month! Only government ministers would have been able to afford them. They finally became free in Kiwoko in 2005, and meant that patients could live for decades longer than before."

"I have seen many changes over the 25 years and my life has changed through working here. God has been on my side. My vision is that Kiwoko continues to move towards excellence and that take the gospel outside its gates."



Patient perspective: John's story

John Misaago is one of Bosco's long-standing clients, and was diagnosed with HIV in 1996. He has lived in Kiwoko his whole life and has always received treatment through Kiwoko HIV clinic.

When he was first diagnosed, "I became very thin and had to be spoon fed. AIDs began to wipe out many in the village and we would be digging graves from sunrise until sunset. But after tablets became available I went from being a person with AIDs to a person with a virus. I was snatched from the fire"

John met his wife Gladys in 2007. She was also HIV-positive but the couple wished to have a healthy family.



Through guidance at the clinic, Gladys underwent Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), took medication throughout her pregnancy and breastfed for just 6 months. Their sons John, Joseph, James and Joshua are HIV-negative and healthy. Gladys's daughter Damalie is HIV-positive and is growing up to be a strong beautiful young woman.

Aside from digging in his garden and caring for his family, John now volunteers as an 'expert client'. His passions are prevention of the spread of infection and positive living with HIV. He challenges the community; "I just go and take my drug, I am healthy."

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Making an entrance

We are proud to present the new hospital gates! As well as looking smart and approachable, the new gates are safer. We are better able to see ambulances approaching and one of the crumbling walls has been re-fashioned and is no longer likely to collapse on waiting patients!



The original hospital gates



Hard at work: the gates in progress

Smart, safe and secure: new gates ready to welcome patients and visitors



Karamoja

In May, the hospital came alive with the joyful sound of music and dancing as we welcomed a group of 44 young people from Karamoja, a region in the far north-east corner of Uganda. Shalom Reconciliation Ministries began in 2009 with a vision to empower youth in the Karamoja region for a better future, through reconciliation with their families. Over recent years, a team of staff members from Kiwoko Hospital have regularly visited and supported this ministry and were excited this year to be able to invite and host some of the young people here. Many of the youth have already come to Christ and we had the privilege of hearing their testimonies. They delivered entertaining musical performances in morning chapel and at the nursing student fellowship, complemented by some local dances from our staff!



There was a full programme of activities including a football tournament, community projects and gardening, HIV screening and education, and listening to members of staff share motivational stories.

At the heart of the team is a desire to disciple these young men and women. They are the next generation of Karamajong and will help shape and influence the future of Karamoja, a place that has historically had negative perceptions and has been known for its violence and so-

cial and political isolation. For many of these young people, it was their first time to leave Karamoja, see somewhere new and experience different culture. For example, traditionally in Karamajong culture the men do not work. Witnessing the staff at work in the hospital and attitudes towards women here was challenging and thought-provoking for many.

Thank you to all those involved in organising the trip, and to the many staff and students who so readily and joyfully got involved and supported the visit.

 **SHALOM MINISTRIES**
Serving Youth | Transforming Karamoja



Kiwoko Hospital News —25-year celebrations: upcoming events

There are a number of upcoming events to mark a quarter of a century at Kiwoko Hospital. We would love for you to join if you are able to attend any of the following:

3rd September Kiwoko Chase 16 KM fun-run

24th September Historicals Lunch Ugandan Feast for all the staff who worked here in the early days

29th November Thanksgiving function with invited dignitaries— details still to be finally confirmed.

All of September our morning Chapel will be reflecting on our 25 year theme. Historical staff members will be sharing each day.

We will also be doing extra community outreach mirroring some of the outreaches from the early days. These will involve immunisation; health education; preaching; HIV testing; and encouraging uptake of community health insurance.

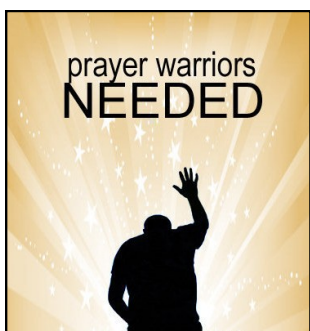
Aware that most of our friends and supporters outside Uganda will not be able to physically share in the celebrations here Why not organise some suitable celebration where you are? Share with 25 friends the good news about the work at Kiwoko; have a fundraising meal together at church; organise a 25km run/walk.....celebrate with us and use it as an opportunity to let others know about the great work that God is continuing to do here!



Elective Opportunities

Medical, Nursing and Physiotherapy elective placements are available at Kiwoko Hospital. If you know anyone who may be interested, they can contact visitors@kiwokohospital.org Eva, 4th-year Medical Student, Birmingham University— *"I have learnt so much more than just medicine on my elective at Kiwoko. I have learnt a lot about myself and the kind of person I want to be."*

Points for Prayer



- Vivien Onyinkwa and Julius Ojuka have both been appointed as Senior Nursing Officers to replace Sister Margaret as Deputy Principal Nursing officer. The role is big and they need wisdom and direction.
- Several nursing staff have gone for further studies in nursing; midwifery and eyes. Adjusting to life as a full time student can be challenging as can the new environment and the studies themselves.
- Refreshment for the staff members involved in leading the weekly Wednesday evening bible studies for nursing and lab students.
- Chaplain Steven in his work with patients, staff and students.

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Thank you for your support!

For more information from Kiwoko Hospital, and for ways to support the work

please visit our website: www.kiwokohospital.org Together, **'We treat, Jesus heals'**.