



Paul & Tania Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,
Luwero Diocese, Uganda



CMS Ireland Link Letter

Spring 2015

Dear Friends...

We write with some highlights from our life and work in Kiwoko...

Kiwoko Fashion School (Tania)

The second year at the Fashion School started on 26th February with 10 new students eager to learn. This year's class is a real mix of ages and backgrounds. One girl is only 16 and has just left school. She is being supported by the hospital HIV department's sponsorship programme. This helps place their teenage clients in further education that they could not have afforded on their own. On the other extreme we have two ladies in their 30s who are keen to learn a new skill that will secure them a regular income to support their families.

The school has also taken on a new staff member to assist myself and Noeline, thanks to the continued monetary support from our donors. Helen graduated top of her class from a degree in Fashion Design in Kampala. On returning to her family in Kiwoko, she found she was getting orders from individuals for clothes but needed a regular income. We were delighted to invite her to work with us at the school and she has been a great source of inspiration to our students.



Helen, Tania and Noeline - Fashion School Tutors

When the Fashion school was first proposed, we knew it would be a great opportunity for the students but we had not envisioned how much it would also benefit the local economy. It now employs two staff members and we regularly give paid work to a local technician who keeps our sewing machines in good working order. Add to that the traders who we bought our machines and fabric from, the shop outside the hospital where we buy our stationary, and the grocery shop where we buy our juice for the girls' tea-break.

The school is a great example of how God's work and Word will always stretch further than we can ever imagine.

Craft Project (Tania)

The craft project continues to do well. I would ask for you to remember in particular Betty who is very ill and has no family to care for her. The other ladies are doing their best to support her but they have their own families to care for as well.

Engineering (Paul)

Staff turnaround is quite high on the medical side of Kiwoko Hospital. On the Estates/Engineering side, however, staff rarely leave. In our time here, we have never had to say goodbye to a member of staff, until December.

Timothy, our ICT Support Technician, was given a great opportunity to return to University to study for a Degree in Multimedia. Tim was great. He was full of energy and initiative. He has an *engineer's brain* and didn't mind climbing ladders to run cables and install wifi-antennas.

Amos is our new ICT Support Technician (Pictured overleaf with Ronny, our ICT Manager). He started last week and, unusually for an ICT person, he always has a smile on his face.

We are about to re-cable our newly extended Administration block and Amos is keen to get stuck in. Hopefully Amos, like Tim, doesn't mind heights. Ronny and I prefer to keep both feet on the ground.



Ronny and Amos

Things on the engineering side are going well. My role is less and less 'hands-on'. The idea of working myself out of a job seems to be progressing and

this means I am working in different areas. This brings new challenges.

As a 'fixer', I miss being in the workshop, getting my hands dirty – there's a certain job satisfaction with fixing something. I don't get that in other work. I still tend to sneak into the workshop when I get the chance. Solder fumes may not be particularly healthy but that smell makes everything seem right in the world. Hopefully that's nothing illegal!

My evolving role has also given me more time to concentrate more on prayer, Bible study, sermon preparation and generally considering the spiritual needs of those around us. This has stretched me. It doesn't come as naturally as 'fixing', but the objective is an eternal one. Taking the time to have a chat with one or two of the men, asking how they're *really* doing, trying to encourage them and point them to the Gospel.

Being part of a hospital involves serving people with physical needs, but at Kiwoko, we're very aware that Jesus was also a spiritual physician and we want to ensure we play our part in addressing spiritual needs.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support!

Paul and Tania

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Paul and Tania's ongoing ministry at Kiwoko - ask God to bless their work and their relationships with colleagues and with the many other people they encounter regularly.
- Paul and Tania are still waiting for a court date in response to our application for legal guardianship of the little girl they have been fostering. Please pray that they will receive a date soon so the process can keep moving.
- Pray for Betty and the other craft ladies - for their physical and spiritual health.
- Pray for Paul and Tania's new colleagues, Helen and Amos - that they will thrive in their roles and even experience God at work in them and through them.



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