



## Paul, Tania and Lana Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,  
Luwero Diocese, Uganda

Winter 2015



CMS Ireland Link Letter

### Dear Friends...

#### Coordinating Visitors

From August, Tania has been once again looking after the guest house here at Kiwoko. She had been able to take a break from this for a year, while Jackie Givan from Ballymena was volunteering here at the hospital. This allowed Tania much needed time to take care of Lana, alongside running the Fashion School and Craft Project.

Now that Lana is nearly two, Tania has been able to take on the guest house again. This involves looking after medical elective and nursing students on placement in Kiwoko, along with volunteer doctors and donors. It's a busy job ranging from answering every question about African culture to working out how to stop rats getting into the guest house. But it does give me the opportunity to meet a great range of people from all over the world and introduce them to how God is at work here in Kiwoko.

#### Fashion School update

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at The Fashion School has come to an end and another 10 students have graduated. We were delighted with the class this year and the progress they made. We look forward to seeing what they will do now with their new skills. The end of year show was a big success, with almost double the audience we had last year. For months now, people have been asking when applications will be available for next year's class, so the school is clearly gathering a reputation.



Fashion School Graduation

#### Christmas is coming

We are looking forward to another Christmas here in Kiwoko. While there will be no snow, or Christmas movies on TV, or Christmas music in shopping centres, there will be our usual Kiwoko Christmas highlights – Craft ladies' Christmas dinner, Estates department Christmas party, carol singing on the wards on Christmas Eve and the 'bring and share lunch' on Christmas Day.

We also enjoy listening out for the now obligatory, confused Christmas story. Last year, during the Christmas morning sermon at church, the minister told us how the wise men were shepherds. We are particularly looking forward to Lana experiencing it all this year. I can't wait to see her face when we put up the Christmas tree, although I'm not looking forward to trying to keep her from pulling it down!



#### Engineering update

This year has been a busy one for Paul in the Estates department. 2015 will finish with the installation of a new solar system in the Nursing and Midwifery School, which will enable the students to study at night, even when power is off.

About six months ago, Paul was asked to sort out the hospital vehicle fleet, even though his brother is the family mechanic. Most of the vehicles were found to be in awful condition, so his work with Patrick (the new mechanic) will continue well into 2016.

Thankfully, the medical equipment workshop team are moving from strength to strength, as are the ICT team. The building team are renovating an unused building into staff accommodation so the builders will have plenty of work over Christmas. Workshop Church and Container Church are going really well. In 2016 we hope to extend the ministry there.

### A wee jaunt up the road

Last month, I was asked by the folk in CMSI HQ to take a wee trip up to Madi West Nile Diocese, in and around Arua. Arua is in Uganda's north-west corner, on the border of South Sudan and DR Congo. The CMSI Children's Resource for 2016, *The Meeting Place*, is linked with the work of the Church there.

I was asked to make the *short* eight-hour drive to take some photos and record some video footage. The three-day trip was eventful. Car problems, torrential rain, and the odd near-miss with a baboon and a deer. All part of the journey.

I was asked to include some footage of a Mothers' Union (MU) meeting. On the day in question, a meeting was taking place in a very rural location. Alice (MU Coordinator) and I set off for the church about 15 miles from Arua. The drive took about an hour and the roads were so bad we only saw one other vehicle; a UN recovery truck with wheels bigger than my car. Alice told me that no-one drives on the road due to its poor condition. I wondered how it could be considered a road.



One thing that will stay with me from that particular journey was the constant stream of women walking along the road carrying sacks of charcoal on their heads. Alice explained how these ladies made charcoal at home and were taking it to Arua market to sell. This money would be used to pay their children's school fees.

These mothers left their homes at first light, walked for over 15 miles carrying charcoal weighing over 15kg, so their children could get an education. It would be too late to walk home so they would sleep somewhere, anywhere, and walk back the next day to begin the process again. Incredible! What a supreme act of love and devotion.

May we all remember our Heavenly Father's supreme act of love and devotion this Christmas. Happy Christmas to you all from everyone in Kiwoko Hospital.

**Paul, Tania & Lana**

### Prayer Points:

- Please pray for the various Christmas activities in Kiwoko, especially the Estates dept and Craft ladies' Christmas dinners.
- Pray for the various students who come for their placements in Kiwoko in 2016. Pray that we can be an example of Jesus to those who don't know him.
- Give thanks for the hard work of the 2015 class and pray for the Fashion school tutors as we process the applications for 2016.

For more news and views from the Bakers, check out their blog on the CMSI website. You can also support the Bakers financially via the website.



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