



Paul, Tania and Lana Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,
Luwero Diocese, Uganda

Autumn 2016



CMS Ireland Link Letter

Dear Friends...

On 30th July we arrived back in Ireland for our five-month home assignment. August was set aside to organise the house, relax and spend time with family and friends.

Before coming back we had some difficulty in organising a house. While our parents could offer us a room, we felt it was important to have our own space. However, the rental market was such that renting a house for less than one year was virtually impossible. So, we asked some friends to put the word out. As a result we received an email offering us a holiday-rental house in the centre of Bangor at a greatly reduced rate! What an awesome answer to prayer. There's even free unlimited internet access!

To make it even better, friends who were buying a new car offered us their 'old' car for free! When we say old, it's practically brand new compared to the vehicles we are used to in Uganda. God prepared the way and far exceeded our expectations. We shouldn't be so surprised when He steps in.

Lana has been enjoying feeding the ducks/geese/birds in Ward Park in Bangor (she tends to eat more of the bread than the ducks). Swings and slides have been well used. But the big hit is traffic lights. There are only seven sets of traffic lights in the whole of Uganda – but they rarely work. In Bangor, you're never more than 10 feet from a set. "Green Man, green man!" is shouted every time traffic lights are in sight. Even when we don't need to cross the road – the button is pressed and we wait... "Red, red, red...GREEN MAN!"



This time of home assignment will include medical assessments to make sure we haven't picked up

anything nasty and psychological assessments to ensure we're in our '*right minds*' to return to Uganda after Christmas. We also have many church visits planned to give everyone who has been on this journey with us a taste of what has been going on over the last few years. You can find a list of our remaining Sunday speaking events overleaf.

Sharing Life

The idea of 'sharing life' with those we come across in Kiwoko is something you'll hear us talking about if you make it to any of our talks. One person we've been sharing life with is Peter.



I (Paul) first met Peter when he began working as a building labourer in 2011. We got on very well from the start. He was 18 and had just finished his GCSEs (equivalent). His English was perfect and he was clearly very intelligent. He wanted to study further but first needed to save up some money for the 'school fees'.

When Lana came into our lives in 2014, the time I spent working in our garden after work was re-assigned to playtime and nappies. I was keen to keep the garden in good order so I asked Peter if he wanted to earn a few extra shillings. Since then, Peter has been coming to 'dig' for us a couple of evenings per week. Sometimes we dig together; most times he does all the digging.

We have become good friends. We have learned so much from each other in the garden. Our composts heaps are producing black forest gateau-like compost and so the bananas, berries and coffee beans are flourishing.

We've also learned about what we each think is important in life. He comments on how I feed Lana at dinner time and how he sees me washing the dishes – two tasks that Ugandan men would not normally be involved in. I have learned about his background – having to move half way across Uganda to get work with his uncle who leads our building team.

I'm always challenged when he says things like *"Isn't God amazing – look at how these plants produce such amazing bananas!"* Or (while we're sheltering from a downpour); *"Banange! (Wow!) Praise God, this rain will bring on a good harvest."*

Peter is now in his second year at Kiwoko's Laboratory training school. It's great to see him in the Hospital's lab getting practical experience – using a microscope instead of a shovel. He has never asked for anything from us but

we feel privileged to help him along in whatever simple and subtle ways we can.

Kiwoko has many stories of people who started working there sweeping floors or fetching water, who are now managing the Pharmacy or leading the Workshop team. We hope and pray that Peter's story will be told 20 years from now. 'From the building team to Managing the Lab'. The other builders are so proud of what Peter has achieved so far and so are we. But no matter what he achieves, it's great that he sees everything and every day as a gift from God.

Thanks again for all your support - we hope to see many of you in the coming weeks!

Paul, Tania & Lana

Prayer Points:

- That we will use our opportunities on home assignment to share about our experiences and challenge others to get involved in mission.
- That we will make the most of our times of rest before returning to Uganda after Christmas.
- That Lana will really get to know her many cousins and other family members in NI.

Bakers' Speaking Engagements

The Bakers will be speaking at CMSI's *Ignite* Conference on Saturday 24th September and at the following Sunday morning services. You'd be very welcome to any of these events. Further details are available from the CMSI offices.

- ❖ Sunday 2nd Oct - Derrylin and Holy Trinity Parish
- ❖ Sunday 9th Oct - St Saviour's, Craigavon
- ❖ Sunday 16th Oct - Bangor Parish
- ❖ Sunday 6th Nov - Drumless Parish, Dungannon
- ❖ Sunday 20th Nov- St Michael's, Belfast

Fashion School Materials

Tania is hoping to collect up some of the following to take back for next year's class. If you can donate anything please do get in touch.

- ★ Lining for dressmaking
- ★ Sewing needles packs
- ★ Packs of pins
- ★ Tailors chalk
- ★ Measuring tapes
- ★ Stitch pickers
- ★ Interfacing
- ★ Lace & trimmings

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 or by contacting the CMSI offices.



www.cmsireland.org



Dublin

Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue,
Rathmines, Dublin D06 CF67
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