



## Paul, Tania and Lana Baker

Kiwoko Hospital,  
Luwero Diocese, Uganda

Autumn 2017



CMSI Link Letter

*Dear Friends...*

### A busy summer

These last few months at Kiwoko have been abundant with visitors who have kept Tania very busy. In July, we enjoyed hosting a CMSI team made up of individuals from our link churches and those of the Wilsons'.

Our aim was let the team experience the 'behind the scenes' work at the hospital by the non-medical staff whom we knew would be very encouraged. So they got stuck in. Working alongside our groundsmen, cleaning up the staff housing areas, and planting mango trees and mosquito repelling plants.

They also shared at morning prayers and painted a beautiful mural of 'The Grace' on our chapel wall. They had a lot of fun visiting the local nursery school where staff children attend and also helped out at our Sunday School programme. They were such an enthusiastic team and really were a great blessing to us and the staff they worked with.



Among many other visiting donors and elective students, our personal favourite visitors were Tania's parents at the end of July. Lana enjoyed two weeks of being spoilt by the grandparents as she taught them the art of sandcastle making and hand painting.

Then in August we were delighted to welcome CMSI STEP volunteer, Emma Lougheed, to the Kiwoko community. Emma has joined us for eight months. Initially she is working with Lana and her friend Susie from next door, doing pre-school activities each morning. The kids love the programme she has prepared - you can hear the squeals of delight from across the hospital compound. 'Sonshine Nursery' is currently on mid-term break but the

plan is that Emma can assist there when it starts back at the end of September. She has also jumped in to lots of other ministries at the hospital like Bible studies with the nursing students and the 'Ekisa' kids' club.



### Solar, so good

With homeowners in cloudy Northern Ireland having solar 'micro-grid' systems installed in their homes to cut electricity bills, you would think we would be doing the same in sunny Uganda. With 10 hours of sunshine virtually guaranteed every day, it seems like a no-brainer.

It has been high on Paul's to-do list since we first arrived but various factors made a solar installation impossible. But recently things changed. In June, thanks to the faithful giving and fundraising of many in Northern Ireland, we installed our first micro-grid inverter with 10 solar panels. As I type, another 10 panels are on the way from Kampala.

It will take another 150+ panels to make our £3,500 per month electricity bill go away but these first 20 panels should make a good dent. Hopefully this will encourage hospital management and supporters to invest further.

Paul has a target – if we install 70 panels, the monthly electricity savings would enable us to employ another, much-needed doctor. Solar panels can save lives!



## Bright side of the road

A separate solar project has been bringing unexpected results. Staff accommodation is built all around the hospital. At night, when the unreliable mains power invariably goes off, the accommodation areas are incredibly dark. With staff starting and finishing shifts during hours of darkness, the walk to and from the wards becomes terrifying. Assaults are not unheard of and dangerous wild animals can get too close.

A friend from Paul's parents' church gave the hospital a donation which was enough to buy four large solar street lights. Basically, these lights have solar panels built in – they charge during daylight hours and come on at night providing light in the darkest areas. They have been a great success. Late-night staff feel safe and confident to move around at night.

Two of the solar lights were installed on an 80 metre path between our Nursing School and the main hospital buildings – a notoriously dangerous path where people have been mugged in the past. The lights have made this a safe area at night but a local tradesman is also very happy with the lights.

This local man, called John, fixes shoes. All day long he sits under a big tree bringing shoes that we would throw away back to life. Being on the equator, the sun rises at 7am and goes down at 7pm all year round.



John had to stop work when the light began to fade but now, he can move under a new street light and work on into the night. If you need your favourite trainers re-stitched – visit John. For only 5p your footwear will be as good as new.

As followers of Jesus, we are to bring light to the darkest places. More than just installing lights for people to see, we are to **be** light and to introduce people to **Jesus, the light of the world**, so they will no longer walk in darkness (John 8:12). Please pray for us as we do our best to shine Christ's light brightly here at Kiwoko.

*Paul, Tania & Lana*

## Prayer Points

- ◆ Please pray that Lana and Emma's relationship will continue to blossom and help make the transition to nursery school easier.
- ◆ As Paul and Tania try to hand over more responsibilities to the local staff, in preparation for leaving in 2018. Give thanks for the faithful Ugandan staff who they have been working alongside for over 6 years and pray they will live up to the potential the Bakers see in them.
- ◆ Pray for Kiwoko Hospital and especially Dr James as he leads. We continue to go through a delicate period of transition. Pray for the hospital's efforts to recruit a Finance and Administration Director.

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.

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