

Dear Friends

Greetings from Kiwoko Hospital

It has been a few months since we brought some news from Kiwoko so here are a few updates

The Seasons

Yesterday the newspapers announced that the rainy season here was officially over. As rains have been poor and most people rely on their crops to survive we thank God that it rained during the night. Just like at home we live here according to the seasons but rather than winter and summer we have wet and dry and pretty much sunshine throughout. When the rains do come they bring everybody out into the fields digging and planting in anticipation of a good harvest later in the year.

In March when the rains come we also get the sight of flying ants coming out of the ground. Women and children usually come out very early in the morning with small paraffin lamps gathering these ants into buckets ready to be eaten fresh or roasted. They are certainly very nutritious and most people think tasty if you can forget that you are eating ants!

We constantly go through different seasons and this is true in our lives as well as through the natural seasons of the year. Globally many people are facing difficult times at present. In our last letter we mentioned something of the difficulties facing Kiwoko financially. Our financial problems have caused us to look in detail at our expenditures and as a result we have changed some of our practices and found some cost savings. These have been important for us as we try to spend our resources wisely.

Uganda

Many people who visit Uganda for the first time marvel at its lush green vegetation and the feeling of plenty. Walking through the bush anyone would wonder at the variety of fruits and vegetables growing all around. Yet the reality of peoples' lives do not reflect this impression of plenty. In the past week a number of stories in the newspapers are worth highlighting as they again bring light to the conditions that people here face day to day. The stories that appeared were as follows:

- Uganda has 2000 doctors to serve a population of 30 million people.
- One third of the population of Uganda regularly go without food
- The average income per head of population remains at US\$360 per year

I thought on Saturday there was some good news in the paper as the headline read that Uganda had come third in the world in an index of countries globally. Sadly the index was the Global Corruption Barometer as measured by Transparency International indicating that Uganda was now viewed as the third most corrupt country in the world. This won't come as any great surprise to nationals or residents in Uganda. So sadly resources that do come into the country are often squandered or end up in the hands of a few. Recently I was thanked on behalf of Kiwoko Hospital for being faithful with the money that comes from supporters so that projects and services are delivered by Kiwoko Hospital. Sadly this is far from the norm in Uganda and even locally here people see that Kiwoko is different.

Kiwoko – more than a hospital

The need for Kiwoko in this area remains high and the role of Kiwoko is also varied. Here are a few snapshots of how Kiwoko continues to minister and serve the people around us.

Kiwoko Bible Institute – This is a new course being run by the Kampala Evangelical School of Theology at Kiwoko for local church leaders and has proved a huge success in deepening Biblical knowledge and equipping leaders in their ministries. The first group has just completed their certificate course in April and graduated on the 5th June.

Nurse Training School – our current final year students have just about to sit their State Finals. Our last group who finished in November all passed, the majority with credit passes and we are expecting similar results from our current group. By the way our Lab school had the best results in the country last year.

Community work – We are actively involved in community based healthcare under the supervision of Moses Ssekidde who will be known to many visitors to Kiwoko Hospital over the years. An interesting new project that Moses has launched is water sterilisation by using UV rays. It could make a huge

difference to many lives and its great because its so simple – as long as someone has a clear plastic bottle and water that can be seen through then with good sunlight the result should be a lot less sickness.

HIV – We currently have over 1000 adults and 130 children registered at Kiwoko Hospital for ongoing treatment and care. The number of people with HIV in Uganda sadly continues to grow and the demand for good services is huge.

Figures

As always the list goes on and this is all before we talk about the hospital itself. The table below has been updated from our last communication to show what this current year is looking like. As you can see the hospital itself is also very busy with a big increase in patients coming through the out patients department in particular. It is also very encouraging to see the death rate continuing to drop.

	Year to 30 June 2007	Year to 30 June 2008	Year to 30 June 2009 (projected)
Out Patients Department	24,196	29,152	37,500
Patients Admitted to wards	6,180	6,359	6,500
Death rate	5.95%	5.75%	5.65%

As we discussed in our last letter this year has been very difficult financially. Since the start of the 2009 we have tried to reduce on costs wherever possible and this has resulted in a much improved position. In combination with this many of you have responded to our financial need by giving donations. For this we want to say a huge thank you. It means so much to all the Kiwoko staff that people are praying and giving to the work of the hospital. We truly thank God that at no stage have we had to delay in paying staff their monthly salaries although we have had to delay on some other payments at times.

The figures below still reflect the huge challenges we face but again we are thankful that since January we have been running at break even for which we are very thankful. We are also thankful that in the prior year we had been able to build up some reserves to see us through such a situation as this year.

	10 months to April 2009	10 months to April 2008	Increase/Decrease (%)
Income UGX	1,440,000,000	1,412,000,000	+5%
Expense UGX	1,341,000,000	1,580,000,000	-18%
Net Surplus/(Deficit) UGX	99,000,000	(168,000,000)	

A couple of figures that may help people understand some of the financial implications of running Kiwoko. It costs us about £14 to treat each patient coming through the gates and we charge on average £5. We therefore need to find £9 to cover the additional costs each time a patient comes for treatment. We generate an additional £4 per patient locally and then rely on donations for the rest. Thank you once again for all that you do – Kiwoko Hospital would be a very different place without your support. Please continue to pray as we continue to seek ways of meeting these challenges.

Thank you and God bless

Rory & Ken