

"PRESSING ON..."

"I press on towards the goal..." Philippians 3:14

Kisiizi Updates September 2021



Warm greetings once again from Church of Uganda Kisiizi Hospital...

This is the fountain in the middle of the roundabout in the In-Patient zone of Kisiizi with the original flax factory building shown. It had been constructed in 1944 by Italian prisoners of war before becoming a hospital in 1958. The fountain was put in around 1992 with a simple gravity feed and has provided entertainment for

many children and visitors as well as home for quite a few fish! The fountain keeps on flowing and so, somehow, does Kisiizi in spite of all the challenges. The pandemic lockdown is still tight and has a big impact in many ways but we are making significant progress and thank all of you who have prayed and encouraged us in these days.



HISTORY IS MADE!

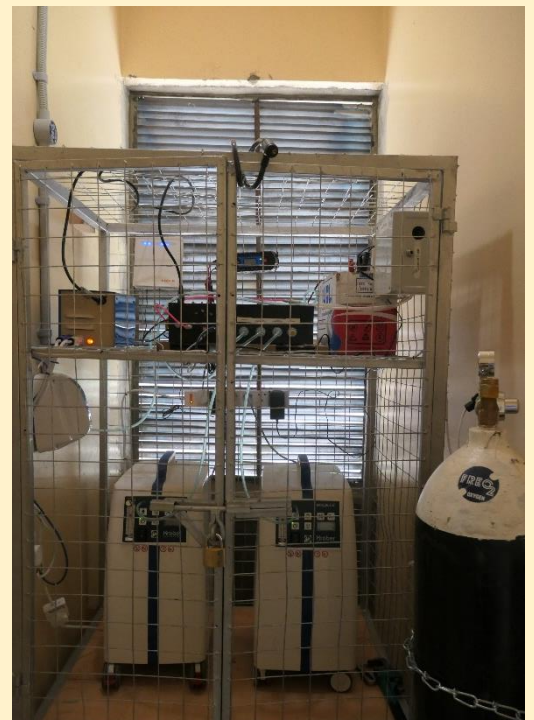
For the first time, Kisiizi has some piped oxygen. We are grateful to FreO2 for supplying a system that utilises two oxygen concentrators with a reserve cylinder to provide piped oxygen to 5 beds in Children's Ward.

The system gives 92% oxygen supply at up to 2 litres per minute at each bed. We are grateful to our own staff who worked on infrastructure adjustments and the production of louvres for airflow to support the installation.



With the current pressure on oxygen supplies, we are so grateful for this extra help.

In phase two the supply will be taken to Special Care Baby Unit and maternity theatre and labour ward. The most common reason for admission to the Paediatric ward is respiratory illnesses such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia and oxygen may be lifesaving.



TRAGEDY & LOSSES

We were shocked and greatly saddened when the news reached Kisiizi that one of our dear colleagues, [Martin Beyendera](#), had died following a motor-cycle accident. Martin was our in-charge for Anaesthesia and was a gifted and committed professional who championed patient safety. He was heading up a project to make videos in the local language relating to Maternity with the aim of improving health education and reducing complications relating to childbirth. He was also our Staff Representative, chairing the regular Staff Meetings. He was always constructive, gentle and helpful in his attitude and his loss leaves a massive gap in Kisiizi as well as being devastating for his wife Milvar with young son Jeremy.



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A week or so later we also heard of the death of [Canon Charles Tukamubona](#) who had served as a Dresser in the early days of Kisiizi back in the 1960's. His wife Edith was a faithful member of our nursing team for decades and headed up our Special Care Baby Unit for many years. Please pray for her in her loss.

One of the sad aspects of the covid lockdown is that current regulations state that a maximum of 20 people may attend a funeral and of course normally hundreds would want to attend for these colleagues.

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And the following message came on a text from a lady who had been referred from a health centre in our community and delivered a stillborn baby with multiple congenital abnormalities.

"I take this opportunity 2 thank the staff of Kisiizi Hospital...who came to pick me up with the ambulance... I delivered a dead bebi on Monday mg may the angels surround your work and hospital management and Chaplain for the counselling she gave me... God bless you all."

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Lab techs making alcohol rub

Wider impact...

Ruth Sloman, a volunteer Midwife in Kisiizi some years ago, is now working in Burundi and shared the WHO formula Kisiizi uses to prepare alcohol-based hand rub. The photo shows the Burundian technicians now preparing their own hand rub on site.

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Abandoned baby...

This little girl was born here with a congenital abnormality unable to pass stool normally. Sadly, she was abandoned by her parents who just left her in our Special Care Baby Unit. Thankfully staff have cared for her and taken on guardianship and liaised with appropriate authorities. The photo shows her baptism in the

Chaplains' Office when she received the name Kirabo Ruth. She has just had successful surgery.

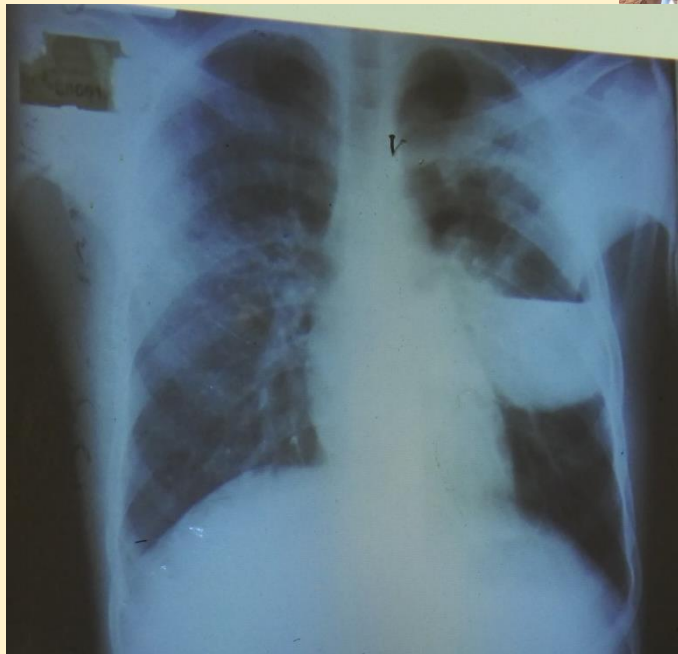
"When my father and mother forsake, then my Lord will take me up." Psalm 27:10





In Uganda the financial year runs to 30th June so it was a time of stocktaking and checks in many departments – even livestock! Kisiizi has chickens, goats, cows but we don't count the fish or the bees!

Dr Grace, Sister Sarah and Dr Henry checking newly arrived equipment. Our supply lines have been disrupted by the pandemic and lockdown so we are glad when things finally get through.



<<<This unfortunate patient has a clear fluid level caused by a collection of pus in his chest. He improved and was discharged home.

Nb: The nail in the middle is on the wall onto which the x-ray was being projected in a Continuing professional development session!



WELCOME to Dr Doreen Asunye, Medical Officer, and Mr Charles Tumwujukye, Clinical Officer who recently joined us. Doreen was previously an Intern Doctor in Kisiizi whilst

Charles had done a clinical attachment in 2017 before working in our sister hospital in Bwindi. Charles had orientation in Kisiizi before going on as lead in the Hope Community Clinic in Rwentobo run by Kisiizi.



<<< Sarah Mbabazi served as Clinical Officer in Kisiizi and then in the Hope Clinic and has now moved on to a new job with the Ministry of Health in a covid unit in the regional referral hospital in Mbarara.

The Hope Community Clinic in Rwentobo



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Dr Paul Matovu, specialist General Surgeon, with a grateful patient.

She came back to thank Paul and his team having been admitted unconscious and had needed a craniotomy to drain a blood clot on her brain.



Fishing net used to remove fish from the fountain



The wall around the Generator House to prevent damage from flooding... this bend has now been opened up to stop the bottleneck.

<<< Sacks of “posho” which is maize flour (a bit like “Ready Brek” in UK) and one of the staple foods in our area. We were able to provide 10kg to each member of Staff to support them in the challenges of the lockdown.

Thanks to the generous support of Kisiizi Partners, we were able to restore salaries back to 100%. We hope to be able to maintain this going forward though the lockdown has led to a fall in patient numbers that has reduced hospital income.



This is a room where there was no room! This will become the **Amasiko Room** (Hope Room) for mothers with babies in the Special Care Baby Unit giving them somewhere to sleep and rest. It is situated between the Laundry and Children’s Ward so is close to Maternity. It will have beds and shelves for storage and will mark a big improvement on the previous situation where if maternity was full these mothers might have to sleep on the floor!





COVID update

When news got out that some covid vaccines had come people started arriving. The supplies were limited and we tried to prioritise health workers in the front line and the more vulnerable. Many of our staff are now protected but in the wider community most have not had the vaccine.



Patients who need high flow oxygen require support from cylinders (our concentrators can only provide 5 – 6 litres per minute maximum of around 92% oxygen) but refilling is challenging and currently we have to drive to Mbarara 80 miles away and pay 50,000 shillings per cylinder to fill them (about £10.10). For comparison, currently a labourer in our area earns about 7,000 shillings a day when work is available...



A (very) small problem!

This little girl was born at 25 weeks gestation (15 weeks early) in Nyakibale Hospital near Rukungiri weighing 900 grams. She was referred to the regional referral hospital in Mbarara but the parents decided to bring her to Kisiizi.

She was managed with oxygen from a concentrator, intravenous fluids, aminophylline (a medicine to help breathing) and antibiotics. She developed significant jaundice requiring

phototherapy (this prevents deafness and brain damage that can occur with high bilirubin levels). She established feeding and later needed two top-up blood transfusions when she became anaemic, and a further course of antibiotics and oxygen when she developed sepsis. She received "kangaroo mother care" where she was carried on mother's chest with skin-to-skin contact to keep her warm and encourage bonding and feeding.



On 43rd day, YES!!! Baby graduated from the incubator to the baby cot. On day 61 she was 1.86 kg and ready to go home much to the delight of her parents!

WELL DONE to all involved in achieving this success, including the nursing team on our Special Care Baby Unit who did observations and feeds every hour initially then dropping to every 3 hours day and night. Also the support teams in the Lab, Pharmacy, Stores, Biomedical Engineering etc as well as the paediatric team.

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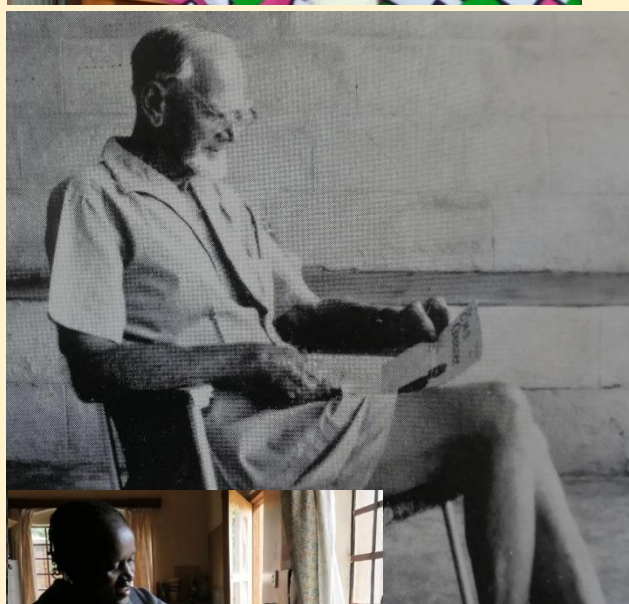
And some things are as they have always been...

This historical photo shows Dr Len Sharp, the father of Dr John Sharp the first doctor in Kisiizi, who helped to set up Kisiizi in 1958 adapting the old flax factory into hospital wards.

He would still recognise the rhythms of life:

Food is still prepared...

And the bougainvillea still looks beautiful!





Kisiizi School of Nursing & Midwifery virtual graduation ceremony



After previous postponements, the School went ahead with its Graduation which was televised to allow graduates, their families and others to watch from their homes.

A limited number of representatives were present in a couple of marquees on the playing fields of the Kisiizi Hospital Primary School.

An initial procession included the Guest of Honour, Dr Kedress Turyagenda with Canon Mary Dutki, the Chair of the Board of Governors School of Nursing sub-committee and Sister Leah Tumuhairwe, the Principal Tutor, and Bishop Patrick Tugume, caretaker Bishop of North Kigezi.

After the Uganda national anthem and East Africa anthem, the ceremony was formally opened and a number of speeches given but also a minute's silence was observed in memory of the late Bishop Benon Magezi who had been Chairman of the Board of Kisiizi Hospital.

The names of the graduates were read out and their representatives read aloud the Nightingale declaration committing themselves to serving in a professional and ethical manner.

Current students from the School performed a song, further speeches then led up to the Guest of Honour who gave an excellent and encouraging address.



The St. John Family

Kisiizi is very happy to have the St John family back again as volunteers...

<<< Heather, Albert, River, Dylan and Dr Barak

"Hello, I'm Heather, together with my husband and 3 kids we moved out to Kisiizi in January 2021. (We were here for 6 months, 4 years ago minus one child!) My mornings are spent home-schooling my eldest 2 and I spend some of my other time trying to set up a reusable pad project. Last time I was here I did some art classes in Primary schools and I noticed that girls were dropping out of school as they reached the end of primary due (in part) to the expense of period products. I did some research (and had a lot of help from organisations doing similar things) and they informed me that in areas of Uganda where pads are given out for free the rates of sexually transmitted infections reduced in teenage girls. They discovered that men were offering to buy girls pads in exchange for sex.

This made me so furious, that I started the process of researching good washable pads and experimenting with different designs whilst praying about what to do. I've had help from a wonderful local teacher and social worker and together we did a small pilot. I made some different pads and gave them out to a group of ladies who gave feedback and helped hone the final design.



After this I was helped to find a tailor who worked with me to make our first batch of 500 washable pads and waterproof bags.



We decided to name the project **Empower** as that what we believe these pads will do! They will last around 3 years and when schools open I hope to teach girls how to make them themselves. It's been really exciting to be able to give out the first few packs to some vulnerable ladies in Kisiizi Hospital, but I've been struggling to know how to reach those who need them whilst the schools are still closed. However through this teacher friend very I've been invited to give pads out to 70 girls in a very remote school!

I'm so excited to be able to provide this gift and know that these girls can be secure each month and can be confident to come back to school.

Heather also co-ordinated the Easter Chicken project with *Kisiizi Partners* which helped many needy families from Children's Ward and from the Ahumuza Mental Health Centre.





Barak:

I completed my specialist GP training in 2020 and became a doctor to work with the needy and vulnerable. I have always felt a strong calling to work in resource-poor countries and am honoured to be serving in Kisiizi.

I have been thoroughly enjoying the doctoring side of things and feel the work the hospital does is really helping the vulnerable and needy.

I supervise and teach 3 medical interns and really enjoy working with these young/keen doctors. It is a privilege to serve with the local population, with many highs and lows. There have been so many success stories and a lot of sad deaths, but my passion to bring Jesus to the person in the bed in front of me does not wane.

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We have recently had a BBC film team here focussing on our Hydro-electricity project but then looking at how the power is used in the hospital so visiting a number of departments:

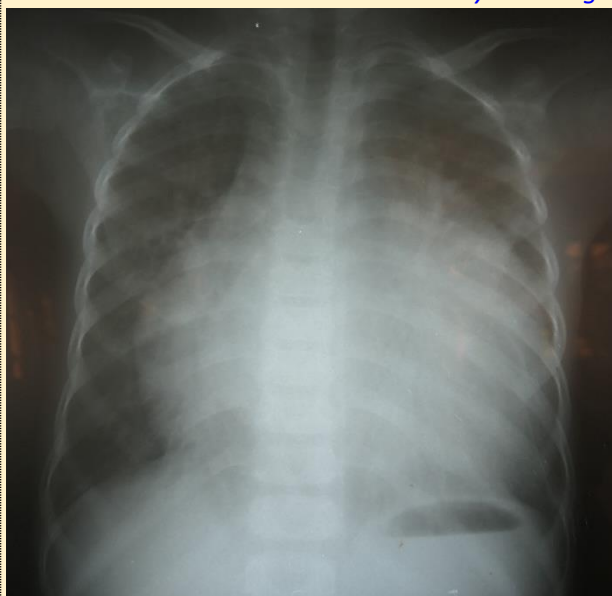


The photos show 1] Ultrasound scanning in the Imaging department; 2] Special Care Baby Unit and 3] our Laboratory.

The programme will air on the BBC Africa Smart Tech series in the next month or so.



This is the most recent group successfully completing U-Shape training in Family Planning and Cervical Cancer screening in Kisiizi...



MEDICS CASE:

For the medics reading this update, here is the chest x-ray and hepatic ultrasound of a 6yr old child presenting with serious heart failure. He had had symptoms for a year and received various antibiotics etc from a range of clinics but steadily deteriorated. His liver was about 8cm below his costal margin. As you can see his heart

was grossly enlarged and the hepatic veins distended ++. Within 48 hours of starting treatment on the Children's ward his liver had reduced to only 4cm and his symptoms had dramatically improved. He will have follow up assessments in Mbarara paediatric cardiology clinic. The cause is probably rheumatic heart disease with valvular damage. This is a condition we see all too often affecting the mitral or aortic valves.



We were delighted to welcome Dr Gabriel Okumu back to Kisiizi for another endoscopy camp. He did further training of our team in both upper and lower gastro-intestinal endoscopy.

These procedures do not involve any cutting of the skin but allow inspection of the stomach and bowel and help clinicians in making earlier diagnoses of various conditions including cancers thus allowing prompter treatment with improved outcomes. Looking ahead we hope to commence laparoscopic surgery early next year.

External Auditors at work



FreO2 follow up team with Kisiizi staff



EYE CLINIC EQUIPMENT

We are very grateful to Lions Clubs International Foundation and local members supporting the SW retinopathy programme for the donation of some very important ophthalmology equipment. This includes a Slit Lamp, Autorefractor,



retinoscopes and also supplies for cataract surgery.

We are looking forward to an Ophthalmology Camp in October with Dr Keith Waddell and team from Ruharo Eye Hospital in Mbarara.

We have recently received back some of our staff who underwent training in ophthalmology including eye surgery nursing, refraction etc. so the department is developing its skills.



This team came all the way from eastern Uganda to visit Kisiizi to see our **Community Health Insurance Scheme** as they are planning to start a scheme in their own area.

They were here for 2 days including

trips to see insurance groups in the villages and it proved a very successful visit. Being the first and largest community health insurance scheme in Uganda it has had many visitors leading to new schemes scattered across the country.

So sunshine as well as storms... the rainy season is coming but we pray for strength as we move forward.

Thank you from all on the Management Team for the messages of encouragement as we persevere through this challenging time. God is good and we believe He will take us through...



"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10
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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021



LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

KISIIZI ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2021

In case you missed it and would like a more detailed and systematic overview of the ministries and services provided by Kisiizi please click on the link below:

<http://www.kisiizihospital.org.ug/wp-content/uploads/files/2021/08/KH-Annual-Report-FY-2020-2021-F.pdf>

This document and previous editions of this update newsletter are available on our website www.kisiizihospital.org.ug

For those interested in the tourism project see www.kisiizifalls.com and for Streamline see www.streamlinehealth.org



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT helping us to bring LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.

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