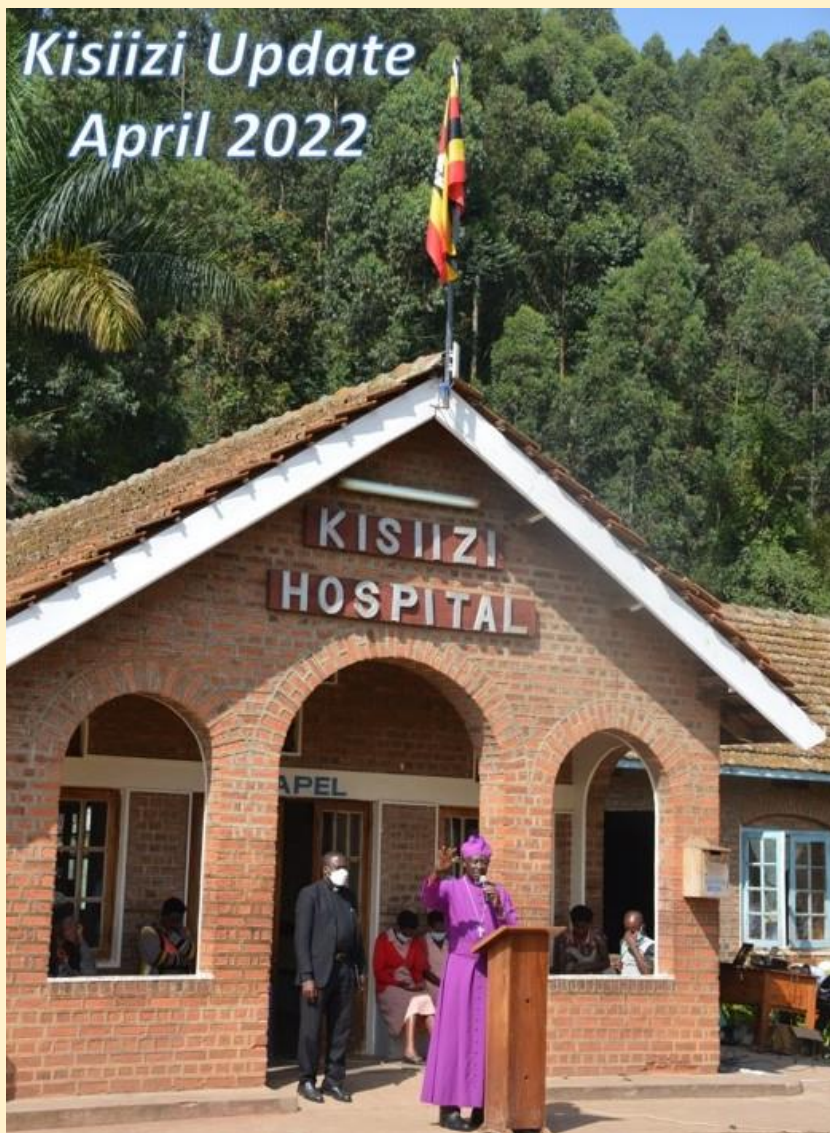


# "PRESSING ON..."

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

Kisiizi Update  
April 2022



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



Life can be quite unpredictable in Kisiizi... as for example when the Archbishop of Uganda paid a visit with only 36 hours notice... But everyone rallied round and things fell into place albeit sometimes at the very last minute...



Naturally a large crowd gathered with patients, attendants, staff, students and visitors all joining the celebrations and hearing words of encouragement and challenge from the Archbishop who was impressed with the impact Kisiizi has and its wide range of ministries...



Representatives of all the different areas of Kisiizi participated including children from our Primary School, students from our School of Nursing & Midwifery and Staff from all of our different departments.





The Archbishop planted a tree at the Ahumuza Centre after he had visited the patients, attendants and staff there and he commended the team for caring for the vulnerable suffering with mental health problems.

The Medical Superintendent presented him with a framed photograph of Kisiizi Falls with the motto of the hospital *"Life in all its fullness"* to adorn the wall of his office as a memento of his visit.



## HIGHLY HONOURED AT NATIONAL LEVEL!

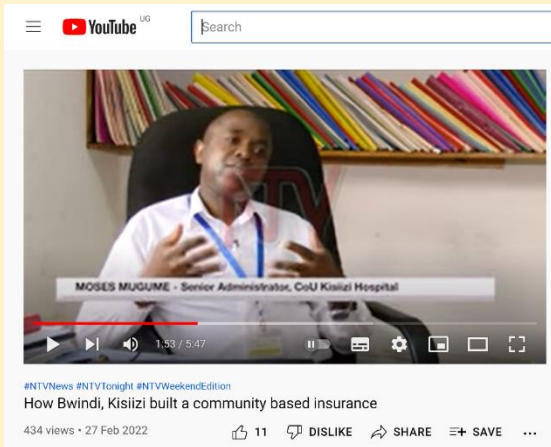


All our Staff were delighted to hear that our Senior Hospital Administrator was honoured to receive an honorary medal from President Museveni. This recognised Moses' long term service at Kisiizi including his contributions to the community. He has served in a wide range of capacities, commencing as a student doing a holiday job preparing intravenous fluids in the Solutions Room! Later he trained as a Clinical Officer and then led the Kisiizi Community Based Health Care programme for Tear Fund. After post-graduate training including a degree in Public Health from Cardiff University and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Glasgow he was appointed as administrator in Kisiizi.

His wife Dr. Josephine studied medicine and then specialised as a Paediatrician. She also heads up our HIV services in Kisiizi.

*Moses recently featured in a NTV Documentary on national television telling the story of the Kisiizi Community Health Insurance Scheme:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls-E1aNeT88>



Meanwhile all the routine services including surgery in our operating theatres continue.

We are grateful for all the theatre staff, anaesthetists and surgeons who provide lifesaving and lifechanging care to so many patients.







We continue to provide important support services for patients living with HIV. We network with the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau national programme with periodic review meetings as shown to check on progress against targets. Sister Dianah Kanyesigye leads the clinic while Dr Josephine Nantongo co-ordinates the whole programme. Recently we have integrated Tuberculosis screening into our IT programme *Stre@mline* which has improved our surveillance and screening

programme and generated interest at national level.



## Research



Dr Henry Lukabwe, specialist obstetrician, led a team publishing a recent article on reducing post-emergency Caesarian section sepsis rates. Dr Francis Banyu also participated.



We had a feedback seminar in Kisiizi Falls Visitors Centre (above) organised by Walimu for our *Smart Discharges* research project aiming to reduce childhood mortality in children discharged from Ugandan hospitals. Kisiizi was selected as a pilot centre due to the *Stre@mline* IT programme and as we have embedded the algorithms that determine the post-discharge mortality risk we will continue the programme after the project formally ends to ensure the benefits continue. The District Health Officer and Commissioners from the Ministry of Health were present and impressed with the progress made.

Another hospital group from central Uganda will visit Kisiizi next week to look at our Community Health Insurance Scheme and *Stre@mline*. We have also applied for a major Swiss grant to strengthen and replicate the Scheme in other hospitals in Uganda with *Stre@mline* support.



# Palliative Care Service



As a hospital we are excited to have formally started a palliative care service. End of life care is such a big part of healthcare that is often overlooked and not done well in rural Uganda. The big vision is to have a community palliative care team, as well as a hospice type service in the hospital itself, but for now we are running with no funding and seek to do what we can.

We have started getting referrals from all departments with patients who have been diagnosed with untreatable, life-limiting illnesses, and take time to establish what their needs are as they enter the last stage of their life. These may be physical, psychological, social and spiritual. Once we have established their needs, we try to address them with the multi-disciplinary team we have around us, and then follow them up with phone calls or invite them to visit our weekly clinic. We will also support wards, with actively dying patients to reduce the suffering of the patient and

support the family.

We are very excited to see where the service leads; training staff, developing better community relationships with the local church and community health workers and blessing those who are dying.

*Dr. Barak St. John*

**CLINICAL CASEBOOK:** A 30 year old male presented in A&E after being found by his brother an hour before. The patient was unconscious with minimal respiratory effort. After bagging the patient his oxygen saturations improved from 40% to 99%. It was clear from the smell on his breath and his presentation that he had ingested a large amount of poison, likely organophosphates of some kind. With some atropine his heart rate picked up from 40bpm to 80bpm. He was unresponsive to pain. In conjunction with our anaesthetic colleagues we agreed that ventilating the patient for a few days to support his breathing while the poison was excreted from his system would be appropriate. He spent 24 hours being ventilated here in Kisiizi until we were able to arrange transfer to a regional Intensive Care Unit and we later received news that he had make a full recovery.

This was possible as we now have a second Universal Anaesthesia Machine (UAM) with ventilator in our theatres. Longer term we hope to have our own Intensive Care Unit in the new building planned to also house maternity and a neonatal unit. We are grateful to Gradian Health who supported the cost of the UAM equipment via Joint Medical Stores.

Dr Barak St John  
MRCGP, MBChB, BSc

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## **DANGER!**

Sadly a dog with rabies appeared in our hospital estate and bit a member of staff and some members of the public before being put down. Thankfully we have a supply of rabies vaccine which was administered promptly to the victims. Tragically, during the covid lockdown last year, we heard of a patient who died as she was unable to access the full vaccine course.





Chapel services have re-commenced, albeit with masks being worn but the singing is still amazing!

The photo below shows some of the School of Nursing students practicing outside for the choir.



We were delighted to welcome back previous graduates of the Kisiizi Hospital Primary School seen with Christine (HR co-ordinator), Canon Joshua (Chaplain),

Moses (Administrator) and Spencer (Headmaster).

The "graduates" met with Management and gave some very helpful constructive feedback and will participate in the Parent-Teacher



association and School sub-committee as plans for the future are formulated.

Meanwhile we were pleased to be able to re-roof some of the teachers' accommodation that was leaking.





The District Health Officer requested Kisiizi to assist in immunising the public against Covid-19, the photo shows the crowds turning up for this.

Meanwhile the School of Nursing and Midwifery provides lunch for hungry students!



*The Board of Governors met chaired by Bishop Patrick Tugume, the caretaker bishop of North Kigezi Diocese...*







The **Hope Community Clinic Rwentobo** Management Team also met recently. The clinic is led by Mr Charles Tumwujukye, pictured, who is doing a good job with rising numbers of patients and a well functioning team.

A new solar inverter was installed to support the power for the clinic. Road signs have been erected.



A formal review is due in May after the first three years of operation of the clinic launched by the late Bishop Benon Magezi. The review will guide the future direction and governance of the clinic which is serving a poor community stretching towards the Rwandan border.



Meanwhile life goes on in Kisiizi with very practical tasks including waste disposal and drainage maintenance and inspections!

Segregation and careful management of waste is a constant challenge. The photo on the left shows the back up autoclave in action as we await the main 100 litre model due soon to replace the very old broken machines. We are grateful to friends of Kisiizi who have helped us with donations to cover the cost of this essential equipment, thank you – you know who you are!





We were also delighted to welcome back members of *Jamie's Fund* after a long period of enforced absence due to covid.

We now have a new link with *Ember* that is developing and will help us to move forward in plans for mental health services.

We were moved to hear accounts of different patients and families helped by the Ahumuza Centre team, examples of caring for the vulnerable and dramatically improving quality of life for patients and their families.

Thanks to Georgious, our Psychiatric Clinical Officer; Prima, our Child and Adolescent Mental Health nurse, and to all the team who work so hard to provide the services both in the centre and in outreaches four times a month into the community.

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*And thanks to ALL our Staff in the whole range of departments, here are just a few representatives:*



*Top row:* **Collins**, one of our nurses who has helped with TB services, trained in intensive care nursing and is also involved in the new palliative care team.

**Christine**, our Human Resources co-ordinator, who helps with recruitment, induction, appraisals, training, etc.

**Emmanuel**, who works in Pharmacy and Stores helping with drugs and sundries.

**Dr Paul**, our specialist general surgeon, who has a special interest in urology

*Bottom row:* **Sister Oshaba Pamela**, one of our nursing team with baby Ruth who had been abandoned and had a surgical problem successfully treated

**Sam**, long term hospital tailor and also a pastor and preacher

**Dr Doreen**, one of our Medical Officers, previously an intern doctor in Kisiizi





We are privileged to have the beauty of Kisiizi Falls around us and the visitor numbers are picking up again after the lockdown period. Recently a large group from a technical college visited the Falls and the hydro-electricity systems.

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

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