

**Prayer for Kagando Hospital and Rural Development Centre (KARUDEC),
September 2018**

“Praise the Lord, who carries our burdens day after day. He is the God who saves us”

Psalms 69:19

The Lord doesn't just bear our sins, but He willingly bears our day to day burdens.

What a merciful and kind God we have.

Sunday	<p>The theme for chapel services, morning devotions and fellowship meetings for this quarter of July to September is about the work of God's Holy Spirit. Staff and students have been humbled, encouraged, blessed and challenged at different times. More than ever there is such a need to be walking in step with God's Spirit in His good plans for Kagando in an unsettled world.</p> <p>A new Alpha course has just begun in the nurses' training school. It is specifically held in this venue to encourage more of the new students to attend regularly and find faith in a merciful and gracious God. 53 attended the first session!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray earnestly for a new work of God's Spirit amongst the staff and students of this large institution that we will be equipped and effective in the work of caring for those who are in great need in the hospital and community. • Thank God for Rev Nason, a man of faith, integrity and compassion, in his important role as Chaplain at Kagando; from the New Year he will be taking on a new role as publicity and fund raising co-ordinator for KARUDEC.
Monday	<p>The 40 bed maternity unit and labour ward were emptied last week in order for the building to be refurbished. Staff, patients and equipment have been relocated to the fistula ward which is some distance from both theatre and the neonatal - ward where the premature or sick newborn babies are transferred soon after birth. The work on the ward has begun - the builders have been warned it must be complete before December when the fistula team from Australia arrive for their next busy camp! ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for stamina and skill for the midwives coping in difficult circumstances in their temporary accommodation – and thank God for the good humour and gracious way in which they are carrying on with their work! • Thank God for the generous donation from James Knott Trust that has made the refurbishment possible. Once the Maternity Unit is complete, only the Outpatient Department and Intensive Care Unit remain to be done.
Tuesday	<p>The palliative care team have been active at Kagando for over 11 years. Life limiting disease is painful and hard to cope with in any society. In the communities served by Kagando the options for treatment of potentially fatal disease are very limited – so the care or patients for whom treatment options have been exhausted are especially important, and in demand. The Palliative Care team do very well in really caring for the patients and supporting their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for the faithful and caring support given by the team, co-ordinated by Siriphas, who also has responsibility for overseeing all the community outreach teams. • Pray for all the families who are at this time caring for a dying relative - especially those terminally ill patients who are also young parents, and will be leaving orphaned children behind.
Wednesday	<p>This week a member of the finance team was in Kasese (Kagando's local town, 30 miles away) drawing a large sum of money from the bank. He was followed by thieves and the entire amount was stolen from his car. It later became clear that those carrying this out were known to be a well organised gang.</p> <p>This incident adds pressure to the already stretched finance team coping with many challenges - but our overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude that our staff member was not injured or killed by the thieves, who have a reputation for being armed, ruthless and possibly colluding with police..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for preserving life and for the honest and hard-working team, trying to manage the finances of this large and complex institution. • Pray for Alvin, and the group of auditors from Kenya coming next month to carry out an in depth review KARUDEC's finance team's systems, with a view to seeing where complex systems can be simplified and made more efficient. Also reviewing the use of technology to see where workload can be reduced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray that KARUDEC will be set free from the burden of unsustainable debt.
Thursday	<p>The threat of ebola continues to grow as the spread of the disease comes closer. The number of people in Congo with ebola is over 150 with many deaths reported, including health workers. At least 10 patients arriving daily at Kagando are from Congo...</p> <p>As from next week, everyone coming into Out Patients Department will be directed to an area where trained staff will screen each person and any suspected ebola patients will be escorted to an isolation area and transported to another designated hospital 20 miles from Kagando.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for protection from this terrible disease and that all those involved in caring for sick patients will be compassionate but wise and careful in their actions and decision making. • Pray for those in Congo who are battling with ebola and also facing the threat of Islamic extremists at the same time
Friday	<p>Power from the national grid has been particularly erratic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our diesel generators have been working overtime – thank God that spares and repairs have been procured repeatedly just in time to keep power to the hospital almost continuous. • Thank God for a generous donation which enabled an automatic change over switch to be purchased and installed, minimising disruption when the very frequent power cuts come. • Please pray for the Hydro Power board meeting on October 25th, for God’s wisdom and unity for the members as they make their plans. The project remains at an early stage, but solid progress is being made in laying the groundwork for obtaining the relevant permissions and licences. In the meantime the permanent weir in the river which will eventually divert water to the turbine has withstood significant flooding with sign of damage. • Pray for Charles Swainson, project director, and his wife Jana, as they plan to return to Kagando later this year, subject to the necessary finance being available. • Pray for Jonathan Cox, of Christian Engineers in Development, as he and the CED team support Charles and take responsibility for many of the technical engineering aspects of design and implementation.
Saturday	<p>In a fast changing world with threats of trade barriers, BREXIT and uncertain economies it is increasingly vital to look ahead and plan for a day when Kagando as an institution may have to be much more independent of overseas support.</p> <p>The Hydro Electric scheme will go some way to making KARUDEC less dependent, but much more is needed to ensure that the hospital and associated services can continue. We have written before about “Business for Transformation” (B4T), and generous donation a few years ago enabled a “Small Business Investment Fund” to be set up. Following B4T principles – the business must be profitable, beneficial to the community and have a “Kingdom Impact” (in other words have an impact in helping God’s Kingdom to grow here on earth). These businesses continue with varying degrees of success.</p> <p>B4T are now formally supporting three businesses linked to KARUDEC – the Dairy farm, Hammer Mill and Honey project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for those who have been willing to invest in these businesses. • Pray for those engaged in running the businesses, that they will exercise the skills and leadership required to make a success of them. • Pray for the KARUDEC leadership that they will have the wisdom, grace and integrity needed to allow these businesses freedom to flourish, while at the same time giving the support and guidance that are still needed. • Pray that this pattern might be used to great effect in the future in supporting KARUDEC and the communities served to become independent and indeed prosperous, and so support the life and growth of God’s church.

Thank you for your continuing labour of love in prayer: “look to the Lord and His strength”

With love in the Lord,

Rob & Jen and Richard & Jane.