

Prayer for Kagando Hospital and Rural Development Centre (KARUDEC), April 2019

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5 NIV.

As Easter approaches, we are reminded again of the enormous sacrifice God made for our salvation: the Father who gave His only Son, the Son who died willingly in our place for our sins, and the Holy Spirit who empowered the Son in His perfect life, in His atoning death, and in His mighty resurrection. All praise to Him for His eternal plan of salvation which is from the creation of the world (Rev 13:8). May He inspire our worship as we come before Him in wonder, love and praise!

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>Thank God that the Christian gospel remains at the heart of all that is Kagando.</p> <p>The chapel team recently counted 22 ‘fellowship groups’ that meet regularly in the hospital and training schools. Many of these groups are committed to being Bible based with the aim of helping people to understand the love, grace and mercy of God; the Gospel of “repentance and the forgiveness of sin” (Jesus: Luke 24:47)</p> <p>Some, sadly, have a distorted view of what is the truth and how we earn God’s blessings; some preach a “prosperity gospel”, others are “prayer warriors”, teaching that God’s answers can be earned by what we do, how we pray... Others link Christian practice to ancestor worship, or other aspects of superstitious belief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for wisdom for the chapel team in their overall leadership of all that happens under the title of ‘fellowship’ at KARUDEC, and for the preaching and teaching in chapel services and morning prayers • Praise God for the 30-50 people who are faithfully gathering in the chapel at 6.30 in the morning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent – worshiping, looking at God’s Word and interceding before God for KARUDEC, the nation of Uganda, the church and our troubled world. • Thank God for the Alpha group, now half way through the fourth series since it began here at Kagando four years ago. Thank God also for those who are keen to take the Alpha course out into the community, running it in schools and churches in the area.
<p>Monday</p>	<p>A young man, aged about 25 years was presented to Kagando’s Community Mental Health team during a routine outreach visit to a diocesan health centre last week. He had shackles and chains on both hands and both ankles, and he was routinely chained up as a means of controlling his mental health illness. He is one of many women and men with serious but very treatable mental health disease who have been hidden away in their communities; families and clan members are fearful of the illness and costs of treatment, so they resort to the shackles and chains.</p> <p>Funded by Jamie’s Fund – a UK based charity – Kagando’s mental health team give subsidised and very effective treatment. As a result, many patients are now free of their chains or their imprisonment, or their terrifying epileptic fits, and are leading meaningful lives with their families. As well as giving treatment like this, the team from Kagando also train and support government and private health care workers to identify and treat others with mental health problems, so multiplying the effectiveness of their work.</p> <p>This team, based around a Psychiatric Clinical Officer and two psychiatric nurses, keep in regular contact with other similar teams around Uganda, sharing resources and regular ongoing training and support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for the skills and support this team give to rapidly increasing numbers of patients both at Kagando and out in the community. • Pray that the practice of hiding away and constraining patients with mental health disorders and epilepsy will eventually become a thing of the past. • Pray that, shared with the message of the Gospel of Jesus, and the love of God who created ALL people in His image and has the power to heal, combined with well supervised, trained and supported health workers, many more people will be set free from the stigma and prison of mental health illness.

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Change is taking place in South Rwenzori Diocese and KARUDEC over this coming year. The Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese, Rt Rev Jackson Nzerebende, is retiring in 2020. The complicated process of selecting a new bishop has begun and will eventually involve the House of Bishops in Kampala. In the meantime, it is the task of a group of people in South Rwenzori Diocese to choose and put forward to the house of bishops the names of two candidates for the post of bishop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for those involved in making this very important decision that they will be united in their desire to choose a Godly person who will keep in step with the Holy Spirit and make wise and just decisions • Pray that God will already be preparing that person for this enormous responsibility <p>At the same time, Rev Canon Dr Benson Baguma’s contract as Executive Director of KARUDEC comes to an end in June 2019. He has served KARUDEC in this post for 17 years, and has done so with extraordinary ability and energy, achieving extraordinary growth and development at Kagando under at times desperately difficult circumstances. It has been agreed that his contract should be extended to the end of 2019, and between now and then the Board of Governors will be seeking to ensure that there is continuity in the leadership of KARUDEC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for Benson, his wife and his family as they face the possibility of change. • Pray for the Board of Governors, that they will be wise and open to God’s leading as they discharge the very great responsibility of ensuring the continuity of leadership for KARUDEC.
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>The KARUDEC board of Governors met this week. The chairman of the board is Rev Canon Dr Uziah Maate Kiriaghe. He was the executive director of KARUDEC from 1996 to 2002. He is ably supported by Rev Canon Bwalhuma Jehoshaphat, Diocesan Secretary and another giant in the Christian faith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for the wise and gracious leadership of Rev Canon Dr Uziah. • The Board is served by committees of the Board in Health (responsible for the hospital and outreach programmes), Education (responsible for nurses’, midwives’, lab and theatre technicians’ training schools and the Primary / Nursery schools), Finance (responsible for all the finance management of KARUDEC) and Human Resource (responsible for that most precious of all resources, personnel). These committees have all met over the past two weeks, and presented their reports to the Board, who made decisions and recommendations as a result. Please pray for the implementation of those decisions and recommendations – for clarity, integrity and wisdom. • Pray for KARUDEC’s finances, giving thanks for the wonderful generosity that allows Friends of Kagando and other supporters to subsidise especially the hospital, and treatment for those who are poor and suffering, and many outreach projects into the communities served by Kagando. • Pray for Alvin Mbola of Kileleni Africa Limited, (based in Nairobi, Kenya) with whom Friends of Kagando have signed a contract, under which Alvin and his team agree to support and guide KARUDEC’s finance team in their complex and demanding work of managing the finances.
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>One of the regular responsibilities of the Clinical Governance team is to do spot checks on all the departments to ensure that high standards of equipment, cleanliness, practice and nursing care are being maintained. The recent tour around the hospital was a reminder of the great improvements there have been in the past few years of refurbishment and other raised standards. But the toilets, washrooms and disposal of rubbish and sewage leave a lot to be desired, and show what a long way there is still to go.....</p> <p>The hospital is desperately in need of a new water and sewage system. The current one was planned and built for a hospital with 100 beds 40 years ago. We now have more than ten times the number of people on the hospital and staff compounds, including patients, students, attendants, staff and visitors who depend on these same systems which have fallen a long way behind the growth of the rest of KARUDEC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for the resources to be able treat our patients to the same high standard of care and cleanliness that many of us expect for ourselves and our families. • Thank God for an encouraging report from Hydro Tech that a bore hole on hospital land could be successful – and pray for the means to implement this, and also carry out revision of sewage management.

<p>Friday</p>	<p>We have written and asked for prayer for the Hydro Electric Scheme at Kagando before; thank you so much to those many of you who pray for this scheme, ask often about it and have given generously with it in mind.</p> <p>There is the potential for this scheme to save at least £10,000.00 per month for the foreseeable future for KARUDEC, so going a significant way towards helping KARUDEC to be sustainable in a world where even the strongest economies are fragile, and the future uncertain.</p> <p>This next week we have key meetings of the Directors of the non-profit making company set up under KARUDEC to build and run the Hydro plant, then with the Electricity Regulatory Authority and other bodies in Kampala. Please give thanks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For significant progress in obtaining the necessary permits and licences that are required, and for the opportunity of this strategic meeting to be held in Kampala on 10th April. • For the support of USAID linked “Power Africa Uganda Electricity Supply Accelerator” for the KARUDEC project. • For the invaluable involvement of Charles Swainson as project manager, and Jonathan Cox with Christian Engineers in Development, who together bring a great wealth of expertise and huge international experience in Hydro projects as well as many other aspects of engineering and construction. <p>Please pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the necessary finance ○ For Edwin Wasingya Masereka, our site engineer, on whose shoulders a great deal of responsibility and the day to day running of the project rests ○ For the Environmental Impact Assessment currently under way – for integrity and clarity in this process.
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>Ebola Epidemic and armed militia activity</p> <p>Three weeks ago it looked as though the Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo, right on the border with Uganda and centred just 45 miles from Kagando might be coming under control... BUT in the last two weeks there have been 52, and then 72 new cases of the disease in one week, which has now claimed the lives of around 700 people. These are some of the highest numbers of new cases to emerge in any one week since the outbreak began in August 2018. Of even greater concern is that these new cases are occurring away from Ebola treatment centres, meaning that tracing and treating contacts is extremely difficult. Armed militia attacks on health facilities, and their activity in this region complicates and adds to the risks. This week a tourist in her 30’s was kidnapped with her guide in the Queen Elizabeth Game park (which is in Uganda and very close to Kagando). Please pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the health authorities supported by the WHO and other agencies like MSF as they struggle to contain this terrible disease. • For truth to carry weight in communities ravaged by superstition and fear – who are often taught lies such as one message being repeated – that “Ebola does not exist, but has been made up by ‘government agencies’, ‘overseas agencies’, or other groups in order to ‘control’ local people. • For churches seeking to bring the light of Christ into these dark places. • For Kagando hospital, and our efforts to screen everyone coming into the hospital to try to avoid the disease getting into the institution. Pray for the protection of Kagando...

Thank you for your prayers: thank you for being partners with us.

With our love,

Rob and Jen, Richard and Jane