

Prayer for Kagando Hospital and Rural Development Centre (KARUDEC) – July and August 2019

“I am still confident of this - **I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord**”

Psalm 27:13,14 NIV.

This psalm was composed at a time of great trial for David; he was being attacked from many sides but he still kept his faith in a God he knew would be faithful and deliver him – and God did not disappoint him. It has been well said that we don’t so much need a great faith in God, as faith in a great God. Let us continue to be like Aaron and Hur, holding up to God His people as they serve Him at Kagando.

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>The House of Bishops of the Church of Uganda will be meeting at the end of August to make some important decisions that will have far reaching implications for Uganda. They will be choosing a new Archbishop to lead the Church of Uganda in the coming years.</p> <p>They will also be selecting a new Bishop for South Rwenzori Diocese who will be taking over from Rt Rev Jackson Nzerebende in 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for God’s wisdom for the House of Bishops in their discussions and decisions. Pray that they will choose Spirit led people who will be committed to their leadership roles with humility, integrity and courage. • Pray that the new Diocesan Bishop will be God’s chosen person; this appointment has a direct bearing on all aspects of KARUDEC, as well, of course, as influencing the South Rwenzori churches and beyond for many years to come. • Pray for the Church in Uganda – Christ’s body representing Him in this nation – of all denominations, asking God to raise up leaders and inspire His people to reject false doctrines – like the “prosperity gospel” – and to reject syncretism – mixing the Gospel with materialism, “humanism”, “secularism”, “animism”, and everything else that interferes with a simple trust in Jesus Christ and His gospel – the Gospel of repentance and the forgiveness of sins.
<p>Monday</p>	<p>With debt continuing to be a challenge for the Finance and Management teams, tough decisions had to be made at the start of the new financial year which affects staff, patients and the community. Quality linked (“Results Based Finance”) financial support from the Belgian Technical Corporation through the Ministry of Health will come to an end in a few months, adding to the pressure.</p> <p>The beginning of July was also when new budgets for each department had to be in place. Alvin Mbola and his team of consultants (Kileleni Africa) from Nairobi, funded by Friends of Kagando, continue to mentor and support all who are involved in managing finance for KARUDEC. Their teaching and support are providing a vital lifeline.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would not be possible to increase salaries this year for KARUDEC funded staff, even though Government seconded staff have had their wages significantly raised – another pressure!</p> <p>One of the volunteer nurses working on the Children’s ward wrote recently <i>‘the work is so heavy I get from duty very tired not even getting energy to prepare food and am sick just going on with life’</i>. In common with so many staff, his personal pressure is added to by the fact that his family (parents, brothers and sisters) depend on help from his meagre income to support their own needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please remember to pray for all staff, volunteers and practicing nurses especially those for whom life is a struggle on low or no incomes and large debts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Alvin Mbola and his team that they would have God inspired wisdom as they seek to feel and understand the financial pressures, and know how best to advise. • Pray for Samson Baluku, Financial Controller, and the Finance Team, and Rev Canon Dr Benson Baguma, Executive Director and the Management Team, that they would have wisdom, grace and integrity in all of their decisions and planning.
Tuesday	<p>Recent months have seen significant changes in staffing. These include Dr Asinja Kapuru, consultant obstetrician/gynaecologist, taking over the leadership of the surgical team for at least the next six months following the departure of Dr Kutesa Job, the consultant surgeon. Dr. Baluku Asanairi has taken over the office of the deputy medical director under Dr Mary Munyagwa, replacing Rob and Jen Morris, who are now appointed assistant Diocesan Health Co-Ordinators, and combine this responsibility with the care of Rob’s mother in the UK. Sister Esther Atolere, until now Kagando’s Principal Nursing Officer, has been transferred to Bwera Hospital and John Masereka, a previous tutor in the Kagando School of Nursing & Midwifery, takes over her role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray that as these changes settle into new routines, compassion for those suffering, and standards in patient care will be the focus for each person and every plan. • Pray too for the staff with new roles and responsibilities that they will also quickly fulfil the potential that they have. • See the story related below in the section for prayer on Saturday – and give praise and thanks for the KARUDEC leadership and staff teams!
Wednesday	<p><u>Ebola:</u> WHO report and other agencies report: More than 2800 EVD (Ebola Virus Disease) cases have been reported, of whom more than 1,900 cases have died (overall case fatality ratio 67%). “Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1572) were female, and 28% (791) were children aged less than 18 years”.</p> <p>“New infections continue to be reported among personnel working in community health posts”.</p> <p>“There are currently no confirmed cases of EVD outside of the Democratic Republic of the Congo”.</p> <p>These are the bare facts, but they do no justice to the fear, suffering, grief in bereavement, superstition and, on the part of some with evil intent, who attack health units and spread false information, shear wickedness behind this continuing ebola epidemic ravaging the communities just over the Congo border from Kagando. News of new effective treatment for the disease is wonderful – but comes too late for so many. The deep cultural and community fears and misunderstandings will take years to change, through careful, honest health education, delivered with sensitivity, compassion and humility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God that there have been no further cases of the disease at Kagando. Robert and Mollin, the two Kagando staff members who handled the case of Ebola in June, remain well. Robert wrote this week “Mollin and I remain well. Work is going on well”. • Pray for ongoing vigilance at all times, and the effectiveness of the Ebola Screening Unit through which all who enter the hospital must pass, that no case of Ebola will spread into the hospital.
Thursday	<p>Delivery of healthcare anywhere in the world has to struggle to find the balance between what is possible, what is affordable and what is sustainable. KARUDEC is no different! As supporters of KARUDEC, expatriate agencies such as Friends of</p>

Kagando have to find the balance between supporting and caring, and the need to guard against creating dependency and so potentially making things far worse in the long run – and damaging the dignity of individuals and communities (See “Where Helping Hurts”, a book by Corbett and Fikkert, and contributed to by Alvin Mbola – “a paradigm-forming contemporary classic on the subject of poverty alleviation”). There are no easy answers! In the absence of sufficient funding from the Uganda government, or other agencies, a patient fee paying system becomes inevitable. Yet some of the most in need are unable to pay all or part of the fees necessary. In practice, below are some of the ways in which KARUDEC deals with these issues: (please look at these, and ask that God will guide your praying and your giving in ways that best fit with His plan and purpose):

- KARUDEC operates a “**Compassion Fund**” which receives money through donations, and is administered by the Chapel team. Patients unable to pay fees may apply for help from this fund. Demand exceeds supply... so some fees simply have to be waived. Patient debt (money owed by patients to Kagando) grows relentlessly, and the vast majority of it will never be repaid.
- “**E-equal Health (Community Health Insurance)**”. With the support of UPMB (Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau) and following a pattern which has proved effective in other church hospitals (eg Kisiizi Hospital), and which worked at Kagando in the 1960’s and 1970’s, Kagando is developing its own Community Health Insurance Scheme. Please pray for increased use of this scheme, and for the team administering it.
- **Income Generating Projects, and “Business for Transformation” (B4T)**. A number of small businesses have been supported by loans (not donations) from investors who are willing to put money into viable businesses which in turn support the community, the church and KARUDEC. These businesses include Pig projects, seamstress services, sale of second hand clothes, other agriculture projects. **B4T** have invested in KARUDEC’s own dairy project, poultry project, Hammer Mill and Honey collecting, preparation and bottling. Pray for God’s help managing these income generating projects efficiently and successfully, so that they supplement hospital income, building sustainability for the future, and building confidence for the investors.
- **Other outside support**. Support by Friends of Kagando currently provides about 40% of hospital funding, through “**Child 100**”, and other direct giving, both regular and capital support. Other agencies like **Kagando Foundation** in the USA contribute generously to capital projects (currently a new Maternal Child Health services building), and support clean water provision for the community.

Friday

Hydro Electric Scheme – the River Rwembya Hydro Scheme, or KARUDEC Hydro Power Limited (KHPL).

Even though Kagando is on the National Power Grid, power is both a major cost, and power failures and cuts are a major risk. This is potentially life threatening for patients undergoing surgery, or for babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Kagando suffers from up to 130 hours of power cuts per month, with cuts lasting several days at times.

Taking into consideration electricity bills from the grid, diesel, maintenance and repairs for standby generators, and generator depreciation, it costs over £3,500.00 to provide power for Kagando Hospital every month.

The potential benefits to Kagando Hospital, and KARUDEC as a whole, from a working Hydro Electric power supply are therefore enormous:

- Reliable power for critical medical services – and all the other functions of the hospital and schools.

- Greatly reduced running costs, and therefore improved sustainability for the future. A working Hydro Power supply for KARUDEC, even without selling power to the National Grid, will be the equivalent of a regular donation to KARUDEC of around £3,000.00 per month for the next 50 years (50 years being the design life of the scheme), or £1,800,000.00. With a Power Purchase Agreement this financial benefit to Kagando is significantly increased.
- Avoiding burning diesel, or at least reducing this to a minimum, helps to improve Kagando's impact on the environment.

So, where are we up to with the scheme?

- The **National Electricity Regulatory Authority** have written confirming their approval for the scheme, giving us a licence to proceed *provided that we can show that we have the necessary financial backing to take it forward*. They have suggested that we, **Friends of Kagando and KARUDEC Hydro Power**, need to show that we have **\$300,000 available for the project**.
- **Project Director: Charles Swainson**. Charles has been appointed as Project Director, and brings great experience and expertise in the building of Hydro schemes in East Africa
- **Project Engineers: Christian Engineers in Development (CED)**. CED are a group of Christian Engineers who have between them immense proven worldwide experience in all of the skills that are required for this project.
- **A Permanent Weir** has been built in the Rwembya river in the mountain, giving accurate flow measurements, and doubling in the future as the permanent means to divert water for the turbine.

So, **please pray for the success of this project!** It has immense implications for the sustainability of Kagando Hospital into the future, and time may be short.

Thank you so much for praying.

Saturday

We wanted to share this story which a friend who has close links with Kagando wrote to us. At the time he was serving a patient as a carer on the ward.

"I was talking to a gentle man on the surgical ward who is a Munyankole by tribe from the district of Ibanda. He was visiting his father after an operation. As we sat, medics occasionally came by, greeted us and went on with their work. This man then told me how Kagando is such a special hospital. He listed many other hospitals near his home, but he would only come to Kagando. He was touched by the way the medics took concern and were always first to offer help. He confessed, this was never in the hospitals around them because the medical personnel there just don't care and never want to be inconvenienced. This moved my heart. Truly, the staff are serving with total devotion and dedication. Lapses may register but God surely continues to manifest to the many through the work the medics are doing. Glory to his name. We prayed and gave thanks that day. This is how God is Healing hearts".

- Thank God for the encouragement of this man's testimony of the compassionate and skilful work done by Kagando staff.
- Please continue to pray that Kagando's compassion for those in need, those suffering, and those bereaved, will always be the lasting impact that patients and visitors, students and teachers, carers and staff experience, and respond by giving thanks to God.
- Pray that God will continue to "heal hearts" through the work of KARUDEC.

Thank you for your prayers – With love in the Lord, - Rob & Jen, and Richard & Jane.