



“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will *shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.*”

Philippians 2v14-16

Welcome from Dr Banya



I am Dr. Francis BanyaOgwang, an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and deputy medical superintendent of C.O.U Kisiizi hospital. My ancestral village is Akara in Muccini Kitgum District. In 1989 I was among the 43 pioneers of Mbarara University Of Science And Technology (MUST). I first came to Kisiizi as a third year medical student in 1992 for a month, then came back as a fourth year medical



student in 1993 for another month. These brief elective placements started my love for Kisiizi. I was recruited by C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital as a medical officer in February 1996. I remember being picked in a C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital Land Rover driven by Mr. Augustine Tusingwire, now retired. I worked for four years as a medical officer and in August 2000 went for further studies, Masters In Obstetrics And Gynaecology at Makerere University Kampala. I completed the course in June 2003 and came back to Kisiizi in August 2003. Since then I continued working at C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital as a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. In June 2016 I was appointed the Deputy Medical Superintendent to date. After serving and staying at C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital all these years, Kisiizi has become my home. The natives of Kisiizi, the Bakiga, are very friendly and welcoming. You can come from anywhere in the world and are welcomed. I believe Kisiizi has the best climate in the world. Even at the peak of the dry season the temperatures remain rather mild, the morning and evening remain cool and the highest temperature in the afternoon is very bearable and short-lived. I love the hospital because of the working environment that allows one to practice to the best of their ability. The administration gives patient care the first priority and provides all that is required, under our circumstances. One thing I know I will miss once I leave C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital is the morning prayers which occur Monday to Friday between 8; 00 to 8; 30 in the morning as part of the beginning of the work. This moment provides an opportunity for God's word and a meeting of all the staff. Notices can be shared. I met my wife, Confidence Kobutungi, at Kisiizi and we are blessed with three daughters (Gloria, Martha, Florence) and a son (Mark), all born here.

65th Kisiizi Anniversary



It was wonderful to celebrate Kisiizi Hospitals 65th Anniversary altogether as a hospital. We were blessed to have Dr Ian and Sister Hanna Spillman still with us to be our guests of honor. Dr Ian shared an inspiring message reminding us of what is at the heart of Kisiizi. During the celebrations, the hospital also presented the Employee of the Year award to Edson Mutaahi, the hospital IT manager. Edson Mutaahi was recognized for his outstanding work ethic and commitment to helping all staff on a daily basis. Several retiring staff members were also honored at the anniversary celebrations. The hospital management expressed their gratitude for the contributions of these individuals and wished them well in their retirement. The celebrations also included traditional dancing and music, which added to the festive atmosphere. The hospital staff and local community members came together to enjoy the cultural performances.

Overall, the 65th anniversary celebrations of Kisiizi Hospital were a testament to the hospital's long-standing commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services to the poorest in the local community. The hospital has faced many challenges over the years, but its resilience and dedication to God's mission to bring life in all its fullness, has enabled it to continue to serve the community with excellence.



Left: Employee of the year Edson Mutaahi. Right: Night Kwesiga, hospital counselor, receiving a certificate of service as she retires.

Below: Goodwill and KHSN student nurses perform a traditional dance.



Cutting cake is always important at any Kisiizi party. This was no exception. Left to right: Sister Leah, Dr Henry, Night Kwesiga, Dr Banya, Edson Mutaahi, Dr Ian.





Right and below: Dr Ian was kept busy, as he planted one of the trees, and turned on the fountain.

Congratulations

We were filled with joy after the announcement of Rev. Onesmus Asimwe as the new Bishop for North Kigezi Diocese. A delegation of members from Kisiizi represented the institution at the consecration ceremony that happened on the 12th March 2023 in Rukungiri. Please join me to officially congratulate Bishop Onesmus *aka Uncle O* and to wish him heavenly blessings in his new journey. Subsequently, representatives of Kisiizi Management committee visited Bishop Onesmus and had fellowship and interaction with him and mama Florence. We thank Bishop and mama for the warm welcome.



Hope Community Clinic in Rwentobo

The management committee for the clinic held a meeting on the 24th March 2023 and Kisiizi hospital was thanked for the on-going support given to the clinic. The performance of the clinic has continued to improve in terms of patient numbers, and more insurance groups from Ntungamo are joining the scheme. The clinic has started the process of getting approval for starting maternity services and the ambulance arrangements with Rushoka Health Centre IV will be very helpful in making this step achievable.



Ongoing Surgical and Chapel Renovations

We are excited that the chapel and surgical renovations are well underway. We are very grateful to **Kisiizi Partners** for the committed support in funding this project



Visitors

George and Doreen Wadsworth came for 2 weeks and it was a pleasure to have them. They have not visited Kisiizi post Covid, so there was lots to catch up on. They faithfully attended chapel most mornings and got stuck into helping out where they could. We are reminded of the value of relationships, and how over the years their wisdom and support has played a large part in multiple projects. We long to see them visit again in the future, but if they don't come back, we know they will always be a huge part of the Kisiizi Family.

It was wonderful to have **Sr Anne Moore** back to visit. She served faithfully in Kisiizi for 20 years and was delighted to catch up with old friends. Below she is pictured with Hamlet (lab technician), his wife and child. Last time Sister Anne was here Hamlet was a single man. Praise God for new families and new life.



Dr Ian and Sr Hanna combined Stre@mline's Ubuntu launch with their visit to Kisiizi. It felt very normal to have them here as they got stuck in to helping the hospital. Hanna helped in stores, and Dr Ian seemed to do any number of things to help. I personally cherished the management prayer meeting that they led, inspiring us to 'shine like stars' as they took us through Philippians 2v1-18. They continue to play a huge part in Kisiizi going forward and we thank God often for their love, friendship and support.

Below: Left to right: Edson Mutaahi, Peruth Tusiimire, Sr Hanna and Dr Ian



Dr Paul St John with intern doctors after a teaching session. Paul is a retired General Surgeon, who came to Kisiizi for one month. He was with his wife **Dr Alison St John**, a retired Pathologist who helped advise with setting up our new mortuary, and teaching about post mortems.



CPAP Machines!



Kisiizi is very excited to have 2 new CPAP machines. We are so thankful to Dr Becky and Tim Conry, who fundraised the money for the machines, and it was not long before they were put to use. CPAP machines allow the neonates born with respiratory issues to get early intervention and hugely improve their outcomes, especially in the premature phase. The next nearest machines are a 3 hour drive away, so they are already improving the outcomes of our neonates.

Digital X-Ray!

We have been clouded with a lot of excitement and delight after receiving the long-awaited digital x-ray machine. Thank you so much to **CHEERS, UCDVO, St. Andrew's College Transition Year Programme Uganda and St Paul's Church Glenageary** for supporting us with this very improved technology which has already greatly improved the quality of our radiology services.

The machine is working very well with very clear images produced. We do not need to use reagents and a darkroom to develop the images, editing is done before printing and this has reduced the wastage of the films. We are now looking to procure the recommended UPS and stabilizer to protect the machine against power surges. We will aim to integrate the machine into our IT Stre@mline system such that the

images can be automatically linked and saved on the individual patient pages. All this will save on turnaround time for results but also will ensure stronger record keeping for patients, long-term.

We are now seriously considering how to buy a CT scanner and all the infrastructure and personnel needed to run it, as well as the MONEY!



Above left: Bedard (radiographer) and Abraham (radiology assistant/nurse) enjoying the new digital x-ray machine and x-ray printing machine.



New endoscopy tower

New Endoscopy tower from a Board member. The equipment is more robust and very efficient and the team is happy with the clear images it gives.

Goodbyes



This season, Kisiizi said goodbye to Becky and Tim Conry, who had been volunteering for 6 months. Becky is a Pediatrician and has worked tirelessly with our children and babies and was often seen running to the ward after being called! She and Tim did great work with the Malnutrition project with community visits and also integrating play therapy on the ward. Tim, a project manager, worked alongside the malnutrition project and helped recruit a community

worker to conduct follow up community malnutrition work. He also set up and trained staff to use the egg incubator and warmer, meaning that Kisiizi is now hatching and raising its own hens each month. As well as this he stores??

Tim and Ruth Messeder and family returned to the UK this month after spending 2 years in Kisiizi. Tim, an agricultural expert, supported and advised the Malnutrition project and introduced aquaponics as well as use of Black Soldier Flies for chicken feed. His biggest contribution will probably go unnoticed by most and that is in the installation of flood defenses up stream from the hospital. This month has seen huge amounts of flooding in nearby areas but Praise the Lord, none in Kisiizi.



Research projects

Lacuna Study

We were contacted by **Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute** ECUREI- Mengo and requested to be part of a big study entitled “***Machine Learning-based Algorithm for Automatic Screening of Pulmonary Tuberculosis using Chest X-rays in the Ugandan Population***”. We are one of the four hospitals where data will be collected, others being Mulago hospital, Mengo Hospital and Amai hospital.

Community Health Insurance Utilization study- Zurich

Stre@mline will be working with researchers at the University of Zurich, London School of Economics and Columbia University to learn more about the health financing landscape in Uganda. We believe that the research findings will provide insights to design products better and to expand the Insurance schemes. Kisiizi hospital is one of the four hospitals selected to participate in the study, others being Nkozi Hospital, Rugarama Hospital and Kagando Hospital.

Other News



Above: Exiting interns lead chapel with goodbyes and cake to finish. We are currently awaiting new interns as (nationally), they are on strike due to pay issues at the government level.

Below: The Mothers Union looking fabulous after leading the Sunday service in the chapel.



A word from a Physio Student

“Hi, I'm Will, a mature (or old!) Athletic Therapist student from Dublin, Ireland. I had the privilege of doing my placement in Kisiizi hospital. It was a unique experience, challenging but very rewarding.

I saw so many good things being done within the community by great people. There's way too many to mention but some great examples are the outreach projects, the nutrition project, and the empower project too that sister Monica and Heather are involved in. All life changing stuff that will continue to give back to the community.

The one message that I took from Kisiizi was hope, I saw people in the most desperate of situations, at their lowest ebb and Kisiizi, the staff from porters, cleaners, nurses, physios, assistants, doctors, surgeons gave them hope. The care and compassion offered to everyone coming through the gates was second to none. There was acceptance and love and competent staff to offer people life in all its fullness.

The biggest example I saw of that was a patient who after losing a limb to diabetes and did not want to live on after it, 6 weeks later after a combined effort from staff and patient she walked out on her own steam and was back home smiling with her children.

There's too many people for me to thank personally, I'd need at least 15 pages to do that, so I'll just say 'Webale, go raibh míle maith agat' (thank you very much) to everyone I've met there, stay safe until we meet again."



Above: Will Shannon leading an exercise class for Rehab patients

New Baby and Weddings



Left: Winnie had her first baby a few weeks premature, but they are both doing well.

Right: Sister Damari had another baby and is enjoying her maternity leave with the family.





Left: Rev Canon Joshua wedding Laban Ampeire, with best man Amos Twongyeirwe.



Above: The African Paradise Flycatcher (picture by Jack Copeland)

Below: Chameleon on a wire fence



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www.kisiizihospital.org.ug

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LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.**



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