



“Life in all its fullness”

John 10v10

March 2024

**A welcome from the new Chaplaincy team - Rev. Collin and Rev. Evas**



Chaplin Collin (left) and Dept Chaplin Evas (right)

I am Collin Tugatungire (Rev.), along with Rev. Evas Arinaitwe, the Chaplains of Kisiizi Hospital, and our families. We are immensely grateful to God for calling us to join the team at Kisiizi Hospital to serve Him. We wish to extend our humble appreciation to the Kisiizi community for

the warm reception and for helping us to become absorbed and become part of the community in just a few days. We are committed to continuing to pray for God's wisdom, providence, guidance, and His will as we serve Him. We pray for Kisiizi Partners, friends of Kisiizi, all organisations, individuals within and across borders, and beyond the seas who have the Kisiizi Hospital community at heart. May the Almighty God bless you for all that you do for His ministry at Kisiizi Hospital.

BLESSINGS!



Rev. Collin and his family

## Goodbye Cannon Joshua Bwebale



After eight dedicated years of service, Canon Joshua bid farewell to Kisiizi in January, retiring from his role. His tenure was marked by unwavering commitment and tireless devotion, leaving an indelible mark on the community. Throughout his tenure, Canon Joshua served in multifaceted capacities, becoming an integral part of the fabric of Kisiizi. One of Canon Joshua's notable contributions was his active participation in various committees, including the esteemed hospital management committee. His wise counsel and astute insights proved invaluable, guiding decision-making processes and

fostering cohesion within these vital bodies.

Yet, Canon Joshua's impact extended far beyond the confines of committee rooms. His profound influence on the spiritual landscape of Kisiizi resonated deeply, as he tirelessly preached, prayed, and spearheaded numerous missions. His steadfast dedication to sharing God's word reverberated through the hearts and minds of the community, leaving an enduring legacy of faith and inspiration.

In any setting, Canon Joshua commanded attention with his authoritative yet peaceful presence. His resonant, booming voice carried the weight of his convictions, compelling all who listened to heed his words of wisdom and encouragement.

As Canon Joshua embarks on this new chapter of his life, the community of Kisiizi pauses to express profound gratitude for his exemplary service. His contributions have left an indelible imprint on the hearts of many, shaping the trajectory of both spiritual and communal life. Thank you, Canon Joshua, for your unwavering dedication, profound wisdom, and boundless compassion. Your legacy will continue to illuminate the path for generations to come.

## Dr Keith Waddell Interview

We had the pleasure of hosting Dr Keith Waddell who has been travelling around Uganda on a goodbye tour. For those of you who don't know Dr Keith I have carried out a short interview for you to get some insight into his life, impact and future:



WHAT WAS YOUR REASON FOR FIRST COMING TO UGANDA? AND WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION?

'It starts with me coming from an African family, my first ancestors came to the Cape Colony in 1859 and others following in that century so I am at home in Africa. The second step was being sure of a vocation to work here, ideally in the Christian environment of the then current missionary societies, though this was the golden dawn of African independence when this was becoming "obsolete". I was accepted by Africa Inland Mission for long term service and assigned in 1964 to go to Oicha hospital in Congo to learn the work with long time doctors there. But it collapsed on day one of my arrival in Uganda with the Simba rebellion in Congo from the start of their independence reaching the Uganda border. So there was a huge influx of refugees into western Uganda including the missionary staff from Oicha. All AIM members got out but other societies lost many members. This was the first big war of African independence so the world was learning. One early lesson was that the national staff were in as much risk as

expats, and they walked into Uganda some months later including grannies and newborns. We set up Kagando Hospital for refugees and when they returned to Congo a year later I paused in Uganda continuing till this day and became the doctor (note singular) for 15 years including the years of Idi Amin.'

#### WHAT WORK ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

'I would prefer to say I felt most privileged and fulfilled by. There are many but I choose two ones. With the coming near of the kingdom of God announced in the gospels by Jesus and John Baptist, there were two iconic healing signs - giving sight to the blind and healing "leprosy" (it would have included other skin diseases). In 1973 the government made me a leprosy doctor for SW Uganda (whilst still being the doctor for Kagando) which was the occasion of my first coming to Kisiizi to work with Pat Gilmer 50 years ago. We had 5000 patients all at home and we moved round to treat them. The new antibiotics had come and in a decade leprosy had been eliminated "as a public health problem". Then in the early 80s when Idi was expelled I went back to UK for my second specialization as an ophthalmologist. This coincided with the introduction of the lens implant operation for cataract. This is the commonest cause of global blindness and takes 15 minutes in theatre blindness to sight and can be done in primitive surroundings. I and my team have lost count of the thousands in Uganda and neighbours. '

#### CAN YOU SHARE AN EXCITING STORY OF YOUR TIME IN UGANDA?

'This again is not easy. Many people ask to hear stories of danger, but I don't like that, we are not there to entertain with vicarious suffering. Let me take another line. Mobile work has been more than half my time and I have driven over half a million kilometres on dubious roads. I have had numerous breakdowns and flat tyres, but never once been stranded at night in remote roads, I have always got to safety often in amazing ways.

Once in the 1970s the years of Idi Amin I took a bus from Kagando hospital one afternoon to Mbarara to pick up the VW beetle of one of our American nurses which was undergoing repair. At dusk I set out to return home some 150 km on an unmade road. The last 40 km pass through the Queen Elizabeth game park. Just before the turn off from the Equator Road a narrow concrete slab crosses high over a wide river flowing from the Ruwenzori mountains. Halfway across I suddenly realised there was a big herd of elephants crossing the other way. The engine stalled when I jammed on the brakes. I switched off the lights and sat silent for maybe 15 minutes whilst they walked slowly past in touching distance. There was no wall to the slab and they could have easily pushed a VW over the edge. It was difficult to restart the engine because next day I found the 'engineers' had plugged the battery in the wrong way round, but it did eventually start and I got the last 10km home for a few hours sleep before work next day. Sadly though in my time 4 UK missionary doctors lost their lives on poor roads, one a lady from Kisiizi.'

## WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR RETIREMENT?

Like many retirements, it is busy. I am still in near daily contact with Ruharo by Whatsapp etc. for work, and social contact with my large extended Ugandan family. For the work I am keeping up the unique database for our now thousand retinoblastoma children in preparation for the publications we need for fundraising when we complete 15 years of chemo next November.

But I will also have time for visiting friends around the country, exploring the countryside and wildlife, regaining lost keyboard skills, continuing the study of the Ugandan languages I have tried to learn, and many other interests which I will now have time to resume. My little flat is next door to an excellent church and there are numerous opportunities to integrate with their services and social work. I am trying to detach my mind from medical interests, but after 61 years as a registered medical practitioner I have withdrawal symptoms and my fingers still itch for my assistant to put the next instrument into my hand!

## STORM!



Towards the end of January, a severe storm swept through Kisiizi, causing significant damage. Lightning struck a transformer, resulting in power outages, while strong winds brought down

large branches from trees, damaging electrical wires. As a consequence, parts of the hospital accommodation and the school of Nursing were left without power and water for eight days. Despite the challenges, the community remained thankful that the fallen branches narrowly missed buildings, minimizing structural damage. Prompt efforts were made to restore infrastructure, and fallen branches were quickly cleared and repurposed as firewood. In the face of adversity, the resilience of the community shone through as they worked together to overcome the challenges brought by the storm. Gratitude was expressed for the support received and for the minor nature of the damage considering the severity of the weather.

### Palliative Care



Mugume's journey tells the story of a courageous 17-year-old boy facing the harsh reality of metastatic osteosarcoma. Despite his young age, Mugume's path was laden with challenges, leading to a sobering prognosis. His journey began with a left above-knee amputation, a difficult decision forced by the relentless progression of his illness. Yet, this was just the beginning of his struggle.

As the cancer spread to his spine, Mugume's battle took an even more devastating turn, resulting in paralysis of his right leg. In the final chapter of his life, he found himself confined to the surgical ward of Kisiizi Hospital, where he spent his last four months. During this time, his days were filled with essential medical care, including the management of a large pressure sore and the compassionate alleviation of his palliative care needs.

Amidst the challenges, Mugume found solace in spiritual support. A dedicated volunteer visited him regularly, offering prayers and companionship during his stay. Throughout his ordeal, the hospital's chaplains provided steadfast support, offering comfort and encouragement to Mugume and his family.

In the midst of suffering, Mugume's family stood as a beacon of love and strength. Their unwavering care and devotion provided him with comfort and solace during his final months. Mugume's journey came to an end in February, leaving behind a legacy of resilience and courage. His passing was marked by an outpouring of love and support, with over a thousand individuals attending his funeral. In their collective presence, Mugume's spirit lives on, a reminder of the enduring power of love and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

### **Abandoned Baby Angel**

At the end of January, we had an extra-special arrival at the Kisiizi Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). Most babies come to us with their mothers, but now and then we get a baby brought by a well-wisher. This baby was found in a forest, under a pile of wood with insect bites on her face. The well-wishers who discovered her, took her to a river to check for signs of life. It was clear she was ready to feed, and she drank the water. They then thought the baby needed medical attention and brought her to Kisiizi. When she arrived, she was treated for minor





illnesses. She improved quickly, and over the past few weeks the team at SCBU have given her love, care, milk and clothes and she in return has given us joy in our hearts. The baby was brought to morning chapel once she was well and Sister Sayuni requested offerings to help towards her ongoing care needs; soap, infant formula, clothes, blankets, nappies and Vaseline. It was a joyous occasion welcoming this baby into our community by showering her with love and prayers, and on behalf of the baby, we would like to thank every person who supported her that day and during her stay in Kisiizi. She continues to do well, and we are so grateful that someone has decided to welcome her into their family and plan to take her home soon. We hope that she grows up to be a kind, confident and happy young girl and that she knows that despite the early sadness in her life, she has been loved, and will continue to be loved greatly by the Kisiizi community.



### Dr Ian and Sr Hanna



We have been very blessed to have a 3 month visit from the Spillmans. It's hard to name all the ways they helped during their time here, but we wanted to especially thank Hanna for the hard work put into keeping the finance office going. Due to maternity leave, accidents and sudden resignations, the numbers in the office were nearly half of what they should have been. Hanna spent many a late night sacrificing a huge amount of time and relationship to do the work. I also wanted to highlight the management awayday that Ian facilitated so well, helping us think about the future, looking forward to the hospital's 70th anniversary.

### Visit from Smart Discharge and the Commissioner for Community Health Service

We were happy to welcome Walimu and a team from the Ministry of Health led by the Commissioner in charge of Community Health Programs, Dr Upenytho George Dugum on the 19th December 2023. The team had come to learn from Kisiizi's experience on Smart Discharges program which helps to improve post-discharge outcomes of children by predicting risk of bad outcomes while at the hospital, and then linking the most-at-risk to a community follow-up plan. Dr George was particularly intrigued by the hospital-community integration approach used at Kisiizi, and he subsequently requested the hospital to give a presentation to the management team at the ministry of Health for benchmarking!

The team was also treated to a guided hospital tour and they were filled with amazement at the number of ministries that Kisiizi is involved in to ensure that it achieves *'life in its fullness'* even to the very vulnerable.



### **The Craine Family Visit: A reflection of 32 years between visits**

I spent an informative and foundational year 90/91 working as a Pharmacist in Kisiizi. What a joy it was to be able to return recently following a 32 year interlude with my husband Michael and our four sons Tim, Jonty, Ben and Matthew.

Whilst I have followed the Kisiizi journey, often attending the Friends of Kisiizi days in Reading I hadn't fully appreciated the incredible amount of change and God's faithfulness over the years. Aside from the huge expansion in hospital buildings, facilities and technology (1990 was

pre-Internet and mobile phones), my overwhelming sense was of an increase in the health and well-being of the local population. I vividly remember seeing many people with HIV AIDS TB, malnourished children, and queues of people waiting to be seen in outpatients. It all seems very ordered now by comparison.

I am pleased to report that whilst much has changed, those things which are at the heart of Kisiizi remain. The chapel with its vibrant heartfelt worship and its daily prayerfulness for the



hospital staff and patients committing its work to the Lord. The waterfall and its beauty sustaining the work through hydroelectric power.

It was a delight to spend time with Ian and Hanna who I lodged with when I first arrived at Kisiizi and to see Moses who was a medical officer in the 1990s.

For those who have a pharmaceutical interest, I am pleased to report that the autoclave used for sterilising IV fluids in the 90s has long been retired as these are readily available, as are syrups and eye drops. Extemporaneous preparation is a thing of the past! As a family, we spent several days counting and reconciling stock in the pharmacy and general stores and updating Stre@mline. It was surprising the huge choice of medicines available despite the numerous stock shortages.

It was a delight to return and we would like to thank Andrew for his humility and patience in helping us.

Really hoping we will be able to return before another 32 years!

## Goodbye Dr Albert and Family

On 8th October 2017, Kisiizi received a young energetic, enthusiastic intern doctor who would later serve the institution for six full years in different capacities. Dr Albert, having successfully



completed his internship, was recruited as a Medical officer due to his outstanding giftings. Over his stay, he was a distinct team-builder and many people enjoyed working with him. Apart from working in the different ward departments in the hospital, Dr Albert was the Rubabo Health Sub District coordinator and he worked so hard to supervise and coordinate all the health facilities in this HSD for the last 5 years. He was also the surveillance focal person for notifiable diseases within the hospital and his resilience during the Covid 19 pandemic fight was very remarkable.

At his farewell party, many people appreciated him for his humility, servant leadership and christian testimony.

You could tell by listening to Patience-his wife and Alvin-their first son, that Albert is indeed a family man, and no wonder he has chaired very many wedding meetings and supported many staff getting married at Kisiizi.

We wish Dr Albert and family God's everlasting blessings.

## Prayers for Fiona

We blessed the Lord so much for sparing the life of our dear colleague Fiona who works in the accounts department as deputy accountant. Fiona survived a fatal road traffic accident while on her way to Kisiizi from her leave on the 2nd January 2024. We thank all those who responded to the call to help her, including Nkozi Hospital staff and Doctors Hospital Seguku, may the good Lord bless you. We pray that she will continue to have a swift recovery from all this trauma and we look forward to serving with her again.

## Nurse Lis Steenbergen Report



This was my first time visiting Africa and I have found the experience truly amazing in every way. Initially I was a little overwhelmed by the huge cultural differences and the need in the local community. I soon felt very welcomed and accepted as I started to get to know everyone. I was writing down everyone's names so I could remember them all.

(I have at least 120 on my list) I was moved by how hard working people are, having full time jobs, managing families and working in their fields and land at the weekends. Often doing craft activities to raise extra funds to support their families.

It's been lovely to get to know individuals and hear about their life experiences and how God has blessed, protected and provided for them.

I have really enjoyed helping with Diabetes education for the staff and at the school of Nursing for the students.

Also being able to support the work in the Diabetic clinics and wards. One of my highlights and greatest joys has been being involved with the rehabilitation patients and the children that attend for rehab. I've spent many afternoons reading with the children, helping them learn English and seeing their happy, content faces.

I've loved being able to attend chapel every morning and starting the day praising and worshipping King Jesus together with other believers. Visiting the Kisiizi community has been an unforgettable experience, and one that I will always cherish.

I hope in the not too distant future to return together with my husband and have the opportunity to serve God and His people again!

### Management Retreat

The Management team took a day-off to pray and reflect on the various aspects of the institution, and it was such a refreshing time for us. We thank Dr Ian and Hanna Spillman who facilitated the discussions and the team was greatly encouraged and strengthened.



Members of management on the away day. A time to reflect and plan. Thanks to Dr Ian Spillman for facilitating the day,

## Hospital Visits



Team from Terrewode Womens' Hospital

It has truly been a delight to host visits from esteemed hospitals across the nation. We were honoured to welcome the management teams from Kuluva Hospital and Terrewode Women's Hospital (Soroti) as they sought to enhance their practices through shared learning and benchmarking. The opportunity to connect with fellow hospital leaders has been invaluable, fostering an environment of mutual encouragement and knowledge exchange.

In particular, Terrewode Women's Hospital expressed keen interest in our Mothers Waiting Home and Kisiizi Community Health Scheme (KHHS). As they embarked on establishing their own maternity services, they found inspiration in our Mothers Waiting Home and were eager to glean insights from our experiences.

The willingness of these dedicated individuals to journey to our facility in pursuit of learning is truly inspiring. Their visit has not only affirmed the importance of continuous improvement but has also spurred our management team to consider reciprocating by seeking out learning opportunities elsewhere.





The team from Kuluva Hospital

### Christmas Award

After 3 years of dormancy as winners of the Christmas ward competitions, the Gynecology ward was finally dethroned by the Rehabilitation department following a highly contested 2023 competition. The Gynecology department staff conceded defeat and handed over the trophy to the new champions.

This year's competition also saw the emergency of the laboratory and biomedical department into the race, though even when decorated, the oxygen cylinders did not have a chance of winning. Congratulations to the Rehab team!

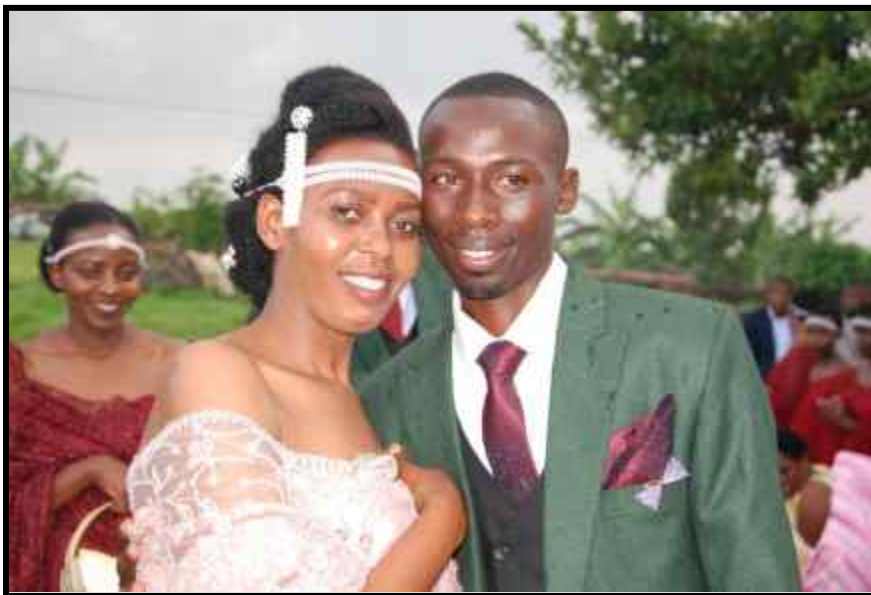


## Marriages



**Dr Boaz and Dr Joyce**, both Kisiizi doctors, got married in Mbarara with huge support from the Kisiizi community

**Martin Ganshanga**, the OPD incharge, got married to Fortunate in December. The wedding was near Kisiizi and again most of the Kisiizi community attended



**Justus**, who works in pharmacy, married Rachel



Tailor Sam, a faithful servant of Kisiizi



Student from the School of Nursing getting Menstrual Health teaching and being given re-usable sanitary pads thanks to the [EMPOWER](#) project,



Malcolm Crawford at the management away day still grinding away in the accounts office (more about him in our next newsletter)



Woodland Kingfisher



[www.kisiizihospital.org.uk](http://www.kisiizihospital.org.uk)



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



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