

“Life in all its fullness” John 10:10

NEWSLETTER



Updates

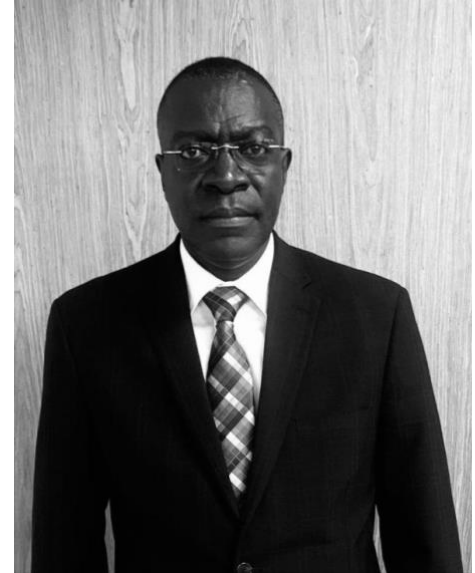
- Greetings
- Congratulations 2025/26 Interns
- Surgical Camp
- Laboratory Department Update
- NCD Endeavours
- Dental Clinic Update
- Kisiizi Partners Update
- Child and Adolescent Friendly Services
- Road Safety
- Visitors and Volunteers



Message from the Board Chairman:

A New Chapter of Service and Excellence

It is with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility that I write to you for the first time as the newly elected Chairman of the Board of Kisiizi Hospital. I am sincerely grateful to the Bishop of North Kigezi Diocese, Rt Rev. Onesimus Asiimwe for the confidence entrusted to me and, above all, to God for the opportunity to serve this institution and the communities that Kisiizi has faithfully served for generations.



Kisiizi is much more than a healthcare facility. The Kisiizi Hospital complex encompasses the Hospital, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the Primary School, the Kisiizi Hospital Hydro-Electric Power Company, the Kisiizi Falls Tourism and Guest House, among other initiatives and enterprises. All these institutions and activities are under the custody and oversight of the Board. Together, they represent a three-fold ministry that forms the basis of our existence; that is healing, teaching and preaching. Through these, Kisiizi is able to achieve promotion of holistic wellbeing, education, livelihoods and sustainable service.

For the last 68 years, Kisiizi has remained a beacon of hope to people across our region and beyond. This remarkable legacy has been built through the sacrifice and commitment of successive Boards, management, staff, partners, churches and the wider community. As I begin this new responsibility, I am conscious that I inherit both a great legacy and an important task.

The environment in which we operate is changing rapidly. Costs are rising, external funding is becoming increasingly constrained, patients are facing greater financial challenges, and our institutions must continuously invest in technology, infrastructure, equipment and human resources. These realities require us to be prudent stewards of the resources entrusted to us while remaining firmly committed to our mission.

My vision for the Board is to provide strong, accountable and strategic governance that enables all the institutions under our custody to thrive. We shall seek to strengthen financial sustainability, support our staff, promote integrity and accountability, invest in appropriate technology and infrastructure, and deepen our partnerships. At the same time, we must never lose sight of the people we exist to serve.

I am particularly encouraged by the dedication of our staff and the commitment of our

partners. Every day, across the Hospital, schools, power company, tourism and guest house and other entities, people make sacrifices to keep the Kisiizi mission alive. As a Board, we shall continue to recognize our people as one of Kisiizi's greatest assets and work with management to create an environment in which they can grow, serve with dignity and find fulfilment in their work.

The journey ahead will require unity. I therefore call upon the Board, management, staff, North Kigezi Diocese, the church, partners, alumni, patients and the entire Kisiizi community to work together. Let us embrace innovation without abandoning our values; pursue excellence without losing compassion; and seek financial sustainability without compromising our commitment to those we serve.

As we look to the future, I am confident that, with God's guidance and through collective commitment, Kisiizi can enter an even stronger chapter of its history. May we remain faithful stewards of the institutions entrusted to us and continue **bringing holistic health services, care and life in all its fullness to all manner of people.**

I look forward to serving alongside you.

Dr. Medard Bitekyerezo
Chairman, Board of Directors
COU Kisiizi Hospital



Congratulations to our 2025/2026 Interns

We congratulate our 2025/2026 interns on the successful completion of their time at Kisiizi Hospital! Over the past year, they have learned, served, and grown alongside our staff and patients. We are grateful for the contribution each intern has made to our hospital community and wish them every success as they continue into the next chapter of their training and careers.



First day of internship



Last day of internship

Personal Testimony

“Over the past one year as an intern doctor at C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital, I have grown from learning to practice, and from supervision to more confident responsibility. Together with other interns in our cohort, I have had the opportunity to serve patients across different departments, gaining real experience in clinical assessment, patient counseling, teamwork, and professional communication.

There were difficult moments that challenged my confidence and patience. There were days when patient conditions worsened quickly despite our best efforts, and it was emotionally hard to watch suffering while trying to stay calm and focused. At times, heavy workload, limited resources, and urgent referrals made it difficult to find the right pace. I also learned that errors can be avoided through diligence—double-checking notes, seeking senior guidance early, and respecting procedures.

A special part of my experience at Kisiizi was observing Christian values expressed in everyday actions in a way I had not seen anywhere else. I witnessed compassion that went beyond medicine, staff members taking time to listen to patients, offering encouragement to families, praying with sincerity during moments of fear, and treating every person with dignity regardless of background. Even under pressure, the spirit of service remained visible: kindness, honesty, forgiveness, and respect were practiced, not only spoken.

From Kisiizi, I learned humility, discipline, and the importance of continuous learning. I will remember the mentorship, the hospital culture of caring, and the way we supported one another as interns. I also learned to appreciate small achievements: a correctly managed case, a stabilized patient, an advice given to a caregiver, and the confidence gained after reflecting on every challenge.

As I leave Kisiizi Hospital, I will carry these lessons with me. I will continue practicing with compassion, seeking mentorship when needed, improving my clinical reasoning, and strengthening teamwork wherever I go. Kisiizi will remain a foundation for my future service, and I will always be grateful for this opportunity.”

Experience by Dr. Ibrahim Ntende



Surgical Camp: Orthopaedic & Laporascopic

From 27–31 July, Kisiizi Hospital hosted a combined laparoscopic and orthopaedic surgical camp, welcoming visiting specialists Dr. Gabriel Okumu (laparoscopic surgeon), Dr. Kakyama Moses (orthopaedic surgeon), Dr. Kintu Andrew (anaesthesiologist), and Dr. Robert Natumanya (surgeon), who worked alongside our local surgical, theatre, anaesthesia, and ward teams.

During the five-day camp, **22 patients received specialised surgical care**, including 14 laparoscopic and gastrointestinal procedures and 8 orthopaedic procedures. Among the most significant were a **laparoscopic lower anterior resection** and a **total hip replacement** — both performed for the first time at Kisiizi Hospital. These complex procedures, each requiring approximately six to eight hours, represent an important step forward in the range of surgical care available to patients in the region.

The camp also provided valuable opportunities for local health workers to gain experience working alongside visiting specialists and to strengthen skills through hands-on learning and multidisciplinary teamwork. We are grateful to the visiting team and our Kisiizi staff for their dedication in making these procedures possible.

The camp also highlighted the continued need for specialised surgical equipment and implants. The high cost of orthopaedic implants, in particular, means that some patients are still unable to access the procedures they need. As Kisiizi's surgical services continue to grow, investing in equipment and surgical sets will help make these services more accessible to patients in the future.



Strengthening Diagnostic Care

The Laboratory at Kisiizi Hospital plays an important role in providing timely and reliable diagnostic services to patients. With a team of seven full-time staff, the laboratory currently offers a range of testing services, including haematology, serology, chemistry, microbiology, and selected PCR tests. Modern laboratory equipment and strong quality-control processes help ensure that results are accurate and released in a timely manner.

These services have strengthened the care available at Kisiizi and have reduced the need for patients to travel to larger towns to access many important diagnostic tests. However, the rising cost of running the laboratory continues to present challenges, particularly for specialised tests that can be difficult for patients to afford. Thankfully, the hospital's insurance scheme has helped to subsidise the cost of some investigations, making essential diagnostic services more accessible.

Looking ahead, the laboratory team is working towards achieving international accreditation later in 2026, an important step in strengthening quality and standards. There are also plans to expand the range of tests available, particularly those that are critical to patient care. Through these efforts, the laboratory hopes to continue improving access to high-quality diagnostic services for the Kisiizi community and the wider region.



Building Continuity, Improving Lives: The Growing Impact of the NCD Clinic at Kisiizi Hospital

An idea born out of need is now becoming a consistent system of care with visible patient-level impact. Since the re-establishment of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) clinic at Kisiizi Hospital, we are encouraged by the progress made in strengthening chronic disease care within our community.

The clinic has maintained consistency, running on the last Thursday of every month and providing patients with a reliable point of care for ongoing management. This regularity has contributed to better follow-up, improved treatment adherence, and closer monitoring of patients living with hypertension and diabetes.

Importantly, the clinic has also enabled us to identify and initiate care for new cases, allowing patients to receive treatment and counselling earlier, before complications set in or become severe. For patients already living with complications such as kidney disease, heart failure, and other cardiovascular conditions, the clinic provides an opportunity for closer monitoring and coordinated management.

While challenges remain, these early gains reaffirm the importance of dedicated, continuous NCD care. Our vision is to keep building a sustainable service that not only treats disease, but empowers patients to understand their conditions, adhere to treatment, prevent complications, and lead healthier lives.

Dr Linda Atulinda,
Medical Officer,
Internal Medicine Department



Supporting Smiles: Dental Clinic Update



Good oral health is an important part of overall health, and Kisiizi Hospital's Dental Clinic continues to provide essential services to the surrounding community. Patients can access teeth cleaning, fillings, extractions, tooth replacement, root canal treatment, dental screening, and oral health education. The most common reason patients currently seek care is dental pain, often when a problem has already progressed.

One of the clinic's ongoing challenges is the growing number of patients, alongside limited community awareness about the importance of seeking dental treatment early. In recent months, the clinic has been renovated and equipped with a new dental chair, improving the environment and capacity for patient care.

Over the next two years, the team hopes to further strengthen the service by recruiting an additional dental officer or dental surgeon and acquiring dental X-ray and panoramic (OPG) equipment. These additions would improve diagnostic capacity and help the clinic provide more comprehensive dental care to the Kisiizi community.

Did you know?

There is approximately **1 dentist for every 110,000 people in Uganda!** For comparison, the WHO benchmark is 1 dentist for every 7,500 people. This shortage makes accessible dental services in rural communities especially important. (UUC, 2025)



Kisiizi Partners Update

Helen and Alan Smith, two of Kisiizi Partners' trustees, visited Kisiizi in May to learn about new developments, listen to staff and share concerns.

We were very pleased to see the building that is housing the Adolescent service. This service, recommended by the WHO, the Uganda Ministry of Health and the Church of Uganda is designed to provide mental health and sexual and reproductive health care for young people, geared to meeting their particular needs. During our visit we worked with Kisiizi Management and Sr Prima on service design and are delighted that the service, funded by Kisiizi Partners, is now up and running.

We learned of the problems with the hospital incinerator and the urgent need for a replacement. Hospital incinerators must reach specifications in line with Ministry of Health regulations and Kisiizi's old incinerator has failed to do this so a replacement must be installed soon. We are actively fund-raising for this. We are also continuing to fund-raise for a new ambulance, much needed as the local roads have taken a toll on the current vehicle which has become unreliable and expensive to maintain.

The children in the Child Sponsorship project are thriving under the care of Musiime Enoth, our programme manager. We enjoyed meeting with some of the young people in the project who are now studying in the Kisiizi School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Child and Adolescent Friendly Services Initiative

In June, Kisiizi Hospital began offering **Child and Adolescent Friendly Services** for young people aged **10–24 years**, in line with guidelines from the Ministry of Health. The initiative aims to provide young people with **accessible, comfortable, confidential, and holistic care** within the hospital and the surrounding community.

Creating a welcoming environment where children and adolescents feel safe to seek care and discuss their health needs is an important part of supporting their overall wellbeing. Through these services, Kisiizi Hospital hopes to strengthen access to appropriate healthcare for young people and encourage them to seek support when they need it.

As the service continues to develop, the team looks forward to reaching more young people and strengthening the care available to this important part of the community.

From the Passenger Seat to the Hospital Bed: A Personal Reflection on Road Safety.

A few weeks ago, I found myself experiencing something I had encountered many times in my medical practice, but from a completely different perspective: being a patient after a road traffic accident (RTA).

While travelling via public means to my workplace, the vehicle swerved off the road after the driver reportedly fell asleep due to fatigue. Within moments, an ordinary journey became an emergency. I sustained soft tissue injuries, but thankfully, they were not life-threatening. Though not every passenger was that fortunate.

As a doctor, I have cared for many victims of RTAs and witnessed their devastating consequences: fractures, head injuries, disabilities, and the emotional and financial burden placed on families. However, experiencing a crash personally reminded me that road traffic injuries are not just statistics; behind every accident is a person, a family, and a story.

I am deeply grateful to the management and staff of Kisiizi Hospital for their timely response, professionalism, and compassionate care during my emergency. Being on the receiving end of healthcare reminded me of the importance of preparedness, teamwork, and the reassurance that comes from receiving prompt and competent care when it matters most.

This experience also strengthened my commitment to advocating for safer roads. Many road traffic crashes are preventable. Driver fatigue, speeding, reckless driving, poor vehicle maintenance, and failure to follow traffic regulations continue to put lives at risk.

Road safety is a shared responsibility. Drivers must prioritise rest and responsible driving. Passengers should feel empowered to speak up about unsafe practices. Vehicle owners, employers, and authorities all have important roles to play in creating safer transport systems.

This message also strongly aligns with the ongoing Road Safety Campaign by Rotary District 9213, which calls upon communities and stakeholders to promote safer roads and better driving practices across Uganda.

My experience could have ended differently. I am grateful for the Lord's protection, for recovery, for the care I received, and for the opportunity to share this message: *Every journey matters. Every life matters. Every safe arrival is worth striving for.*

**Dr Linda Atulinda,
Medical Doctor,
C.O.U Kisiizi Hospital**

Kisiizi Visitors and Volunteers

Dr Ian – More of a Local than a Visitor (UK)

In June, Kisiizi was delighted to welcome back Dr Ian, who spent a month in Uganda reconnecting with colleagues, friends, and former patients and seeing some of the ways Kisiizi continues to grow and develop. Although his wife, Hanna, was unfortunately unable to join him on this visit, she sends her warm greetings to the Kisiizi community.



Ian's return brought many opportunities to reconnect with both old friends and new members of the Kisiizi team. During his time at the hospital, he joined staff prayers and management meetings, attended paediatric audits, visited different departments and services, and spent time with the School of Nursing and Primary School. He was pleased to see the progress of the new nursing student hostel, with the dormitories nearly finished.

A highlight of the visit was participating in the newly reconstituted Board of Directors meeting. With most members being new to Kisiizi, Ian shared about the hospital's beginnings in 1958 and its development. He reflected on the importance of maintaining Kisiizi's original vision of caring holistically for vulnerable people, in keeping with the hospital's motto, **"Life in all its fullness."** He was encouraged by the continued growth of the Kisiizi Health Co-operative, which now serves more than 45,500 beneficiaries.

Ian also visited the Hope Community Clinic in Rwentobo, which has been supported by Kisiizi Hospital since its inception. He was pleased to see improvements in the clinic's infrastructure and team, and an exciting new development: the clinic has begun offering maternity deliveries. This is expected to increase the number of families accessing its services and represents an important step in the clinic's ongoing development.

Throughout his visit, Ian was encouraged by the many signs of progress across Kisiizi and by the dedication of staff and supporters. From the new nursing facilities to expanding community services and strengthening hospital leadership, there is much to be thankful for. As Ian reflected at the end of his trip, the prayers and support of the many **Friends of Kisiizi** continue to make a significant difference.

We were grateful to welcome Ian back to Kisiizi and appreciate the many years of friendship, service, and encouragement that he and Hanna have shared with the hospital.

Chloe Naylor – Cardiac ICU Nurse (UK)

“I was fortunate enough to spend four and half months volunteering as a nurse in Kisiizi Hospital in south-western Uganda. I enjoyed my time there very much; the doctors and my fellow nurses were very friendly and welcoming. I learned about patient conditions that I would not have come across in my usual place of work in the UK.



I’m a cardiac intensive care nurse but by volunteering at Kisiizi I was able to learn more about emergency wound care and common tropical diseases such as Malaria. It also enabled me to work in an environment with less readily available equipment – I learned how to use medical supplies appropriately but sparingly and it reminded me how fortunate we are in the west to have access to the resources that we do.

I also became stronger in body and soul. The weekly mountain hikes with the other volunteers and the keep-fit sessions at the hospital made me the healthiest I’ve been in years. The daily chapel before work and the mid-week bible study groups helped me to grow in my faith and delve deeper into the Lord’s word. It was a life-changing experience and I’m so glad that I went.”

Hannah & Honour – Fourth Year Medical Students (UK)

“We recently spent a month in Kisiizi hospital as 4th year medical students from the UK. It was eye-opening, memorable and an experience that will impact both our work as doctors and shape our perspectives.

The food was definitely an adjustment. We ended up staying clear of matooke but loving Rolex. 'African time' also took some getting used to. We met for a bus to a wedding at 7:30am and thought we missed it as no one else was there. The others eventually arrived and we left at 10am!



We spent many evenings making sanitary product packs with Monica for the Empower Project. Visiting a local school, we sat under the shade of some trees and spoke to 300 girls about menstruation, hygiene and safety. It was a privilege to see the impact such a small gift had and the joy it brought the girls.

During our time in paediatrics, we met a baby who had been abandoned and was being cared for by the overworked nursing staff. He was in a cot in SCBU, where the nurses sometimes had 12 other sick, premature babies to look after. He blessed our evenings as we took him for trips out of the hospital. It struck us that children on the ward had little to play with or to comfort them. It was lovely to see the nurses had improvised with a disposable glove mobile for him. We'll continue to pray for a loving family for him soon.

Seeing staff treat prayer as an integral part of their work, we want to bring this back to our practice in the UK. We hope to follow advice from Moses; 'to be good Doctors, but more importantly love the Lord.

Leah Prairie (Canada)

“It is such a privilege to be back in Kisiizi! In many ways, it feels as though I was only gone for a few weeks rather than seven months. The mountains are still here, the fresh fruit is still here, and there are so many familiar faces that make coming back feel a little like coming home.



I spent the past seven months in Canada, where I was able to spend time with my family, help my sister welcome her second baby, work part-time at my home church, and serve as a nursing tutor for a group of first-year nursing students. I especially loved teaching and was reminded again how much I enjoy both nursing and helping others learn.

Leaving Canada this time was not easy. I had a great job lined up in Ottawa, opportunities to continue my studies and research, my family and friends. But God had other plans, and I found myself boarding a plane back to Uganda.

And this time, I'm not just coming back for a few months. I have committed to spend the next three years in Kisiizi! I'll be serving alongside the clinical team in different departments, assisting with research and quality improvement projects, and helping coordinate international volunteers and interns. I don't know exactly what these three years will look like, but I am grateful to be here and excited for what God has ahead.

I have been thinking a lot about Psalm 23 as I prepare a Sunday school lesson for the children: *Mukama niwe muriisa wange* (English: The Lord is my shepherd). I need that reminder just as much now as I did when I was a child. I don't need to know exactly where the path will lead; I simply need to follow the Shepherd.

It is a blessing to have two homes, two communities, and two families. I am grateful to be back.”

FRIENDS OF KISIIZI DAY — 3 OCTOBER 2026

Friends of Kisiizi Hospital are warmly inviting supporters and friends to gather for Friends Day on Saturday, 3 October 2026, at Brookside Church, Earley, Reading, from 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

The day will be an opportunity to hear the latest updates from Kisiizi Hospital, spend time together, and pray for the hospital and its future. Unfortunately, Dr Medard Bitekyerezo (“Dr Biteks”), the new Chairman of the Board of Governors, is unable to join like we initially hoped due to visa issues.

No booking is required. Guests are asked to bring a packed lunch; refreshments will be provided.

Looking ahead: The Kisiizi Hospital Platinum Jubilee celebrations are planned for 21–23 January 2028 in Kisiizi, and Friends of Kisiizi hope that many supporters will be able to attend.

Closing Remarks

As we look at all that is happening across Kisiizi, we are reminded that the strength of this hospital comes from many people working together — our staff, patients, community, partners, volunteers, and supporters. From expanding clinical services and new opportunities for learning to caring for young people and strengthening our facilities, each step forward helps us continue our mission of bringing **“Life in all its fullness”** to those we serve. Thank you for being part of the Kisiizi story through your prayers, encouragement, service, and partnership. We look forward with gratitude and hope to all that lies ahead.



“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

Opportunities to Connect

We would be glad to hear from you at khmedsup@gmail.com to confirm you received this newsletter or to update your contact details.

If you would like to volunteer, donate, or learn more about our work, please reach out or visit our website (kisiizihospital.org.ug). We would be delighted to connect with you.

Opportunities to Give

Absa bank (previously Barclays): Kabale branch

Sort code 01-32-61

Account: COU Kisiizi Hospital 6003717303

UK Account: National Westminster
Berkhamsted branch

Sort code 55-70-10

Account: Kisiizi Hospital 06513123

To benefit from Gift Aid please give via Kisiizi
Partners treasurer@kisiizipartners.org.uk

**Thank you for your
prayers,
encouragement
and support to help
us bring**

**LIFE IN ALL ITS
FULLNESS.**



“Life in all its fullness” John 10:10
