

2nd December 2008

Dear friends!

After a long period of silence I would like to send you an update about the situation here in Kagando. You know, everything goes a bit slower here in Africa, so for long time I just did not know what to write! But, in the end, there are some changes:

1. Doctors: Our new doctors (our babies) are settling very well. As I am informed, a medical student here is only allowed to qualify as a doctor, if he is able to do a caesarean section and a laparotomy on his own!! No wonder that our "babies" manage the surgical ward and maternity on their own without a consultant. Actually, compared to them I feel sometimes like a newborn...

So here again an overview concerning our doctors:

Consultants:

- Dr. Frank, Surgeon and Medical Superintendent (or, nowadays called Medical Director)
- Dr. Michael, Paediatrician and Deputy MS
- DR HERBERT BUMBI, Public Health, eventually arrived this month!!

Seniors:

- Dr. Alphonso Gatare
- Dr. Yusuf Baseke

Juniors:

- Dr. Charity Onek
- Dr. Hassan Sebina
- Dr. Edward Kironde
- Dr. Alex Muhindo

GMMT-Doctors:

- Dr. Annette Gann (arrived in October and will stay here for one year)
- Dr. Steffi Burkhard (actually a medical student, will stay till end of January)
- and me!

2. Nurses: There was a crucial staff shortage in the last months. As you know, Kagando is a nice place to work, but unfortunately the Government increased the salary for nurses and doctors so that Kagando is no longer a place where you can earn good money. But it is a place where you can get a lot of experience, because there is a lot of work, and the shifts are longer than in government hospitals and you have more night shifts. I can't really understand, but some nurses prefer to choose the government job! The Government opened some new districts in summer and was advertising for jobs, consequently a good number of nurses left Kagando in a very short time. But now our third year nursing students finished and some of them are now working as elective nurses. Nevertheless, that is not the ultimate solution, so we still need your prayers!

3. Other updates: On surgical ward we had some visiting doctors; for example a nice team from USA and a visiting plastic surgeon (unfortunately he felt sick after one day). Dr. Ralph visited us for some days and was working on VVF-Patients and a better Internet-Connection. More updates are available from Dr. Frank, if you are interested.

On Medical ward I try to continue with my job as HOD. Dr. George did such a great job, and it was impossible to continue his work. Together with my colleagues we are trying to continue a good care for the patients on Medical Wards, to improve the care for diabetic patients, to solve some problems concerning TB-Patients and Leprosy-Patients, and to get a foundation concerning all the equipment and tests and drugs that should be available at Kagando. Sometime in May our ECG-Machine arrived, but, as we discovered later, without paper. Eventually the paper arrived last week, and now when we are getting used to the machine, we can start writing ECG's . until the paper is over. But it looks like there is enough for the first months. We had also a visiting Physician. Dr. Ralph brought his friend Dr. Dwight, and he was a very good supervisor and advisor. Thank you, Dwight! Hope to get your feedback soon!

Absalom Rwantangale was In Charge of Laboratory, he left for further studies. It was a bit of a shock for me, because there was hardly a day I did not consult him concerning lab issues. But he left a good team which is taking over. He was still hoping to get a Haematology Analyzer, so that all the FBC's I am ordering can be done by the machine and not by hand (or better, by microscope), but we are still waiting for funds (around \$7,000 USD).

For long time the GMMT-Members were the only long term Muzungus out here in Kagando, but now we have a young couple from Florida, Saint Peters Anglican Church. They are working on an electronic medical record system and advising primary and secondary school librarians. Their names are John and Katherine Bowers (www.katherineandjohn.org). They are also involved in improving our internet, and at the moment we have every evening internet cafe in their living room (thats where I'm sitting now), former house of Rebecca Baldock. We are still waiting for someone from AIM to come...

So, you can see, there are still a lot of prayer requests, but also a lot to thank our great God for. Shara and Michael Junior arrived safely (the newborn daughter of Dr. Frank and son of Dr. Michael)! Welcome to Kagando, may God bless you and your parents!

Thank you all very much for your interest, your help, your prayers, your support! If you want to know something about some special people or events or if you think, I've missed something important or give wrong information, please let me know!!! Have a blessed time, enjoy the presence of the Lord in your life, and may you find His peace in the time while we are preparing for Christmas. Imagine, how incredible it is, that God became flesh, came into your world, your daily living, just to die for all what separated you from Him - so that you and I can live a life with him. He is with us - in all our troubles, all our sorrows and all our joys!

Thanks again!

Yours

Sigrid

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