

Dear Kagando Friends

Ultrasound Machine – Good News! Good ultrasound facilities greatly help diagnosis in a wide range of conditions, from maternity to injury, and readers will know that this has been a project to which we have been committed. Our initial goal was to buy a small simple machine, and £3,500 was generously raised for this. But it became clear that a more versatile, robust machine would be much better. A machine commonly used in Accident and Emergency Departments in the UK was identified – costing over £15,000. That money has now all been pledged, thanks to a couple asking that their wedding gifts be in the form of donations, then the generous gift of a legacy held in trust. The need also got a mention in the Daily Telegraph newspaper this week, thanks to Dr James LeFanu. The machine has been purchased and will be taken to Kagando by a group of us travelling there in March.

Kagando School of Nursing – the school recently hosted the two day annual conference of the Uganda Association of Nurses and Midwives, and two of Kagando's staff were voted on to the committee, which is a great honour.

Sports facilities at Kagando - these have now been completed, and include volley ball, basket ball, netball and badminton and are much appreciated by staff and community alike. The Kagando volley ball team came second in a local competition recently. The money for the new courts was donated by another supporter who also generously wanted the money given to the project instead of receiving wedding presents.

Kagando primary school - has achieved the best results of the rural schools in the district, reading standards have improved and two pupils have been awarded distinctions in maths and science for the first time. A new school kitchen has been built for the pupils using economy wood burning stoves - another generous donation from a friend of Kagando.

New theatre extension - The foundations are being dug now in the early stages of an exciting new development which will have a big impact on the hospital.

Electricity Supply – The Hydro-Electric scheme built in the 1980's has broken down, needing extensive refurbishment. Ahead Energy, a group in the United States, have drawn up exciting plans to help to meet Kagando's energy needs for the future. There are three parts to it: 1, the full refurbishment of the existing scheme, 2, a thorough review and analysis of energy use to maximise efficiency and minimise waste (using appropriate low energy devices, metering and protocols), and 3, the consideration of a complete new scheme drawing power from the much larger Nyamagasani river, combined with solar power, to provide all the power that Kagando needs, with surplus that could be sold into the National Grid. Funds are actively being sought for this. Please pray for success in what will be of wonderful benefit in the long term.

Politics and Finance – By the time you read this, Uganda's national elections may have taken place. Please pray that the resulting new government will commit to significant funding for Kagando, and that financial support for KARUDEC from all quarters can be raised to ensure that the poor receive all the help that can be given, without being deterred by high fees. Pray too for excellence in administration that will deliver care in the most efficient ways possible.

Thank you for reading this, for your interest and faithful support and prayer for Kagando.

Rob and Jen Morris - On behalf the Friends of Kagando trustees,