



Becca's Newsletter September 2016



The Lord replied “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then Moses said to him “If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.” Exodus 33:14-15

Summer in the UK

Having arrived back in the UK 2 weeks later than initially planned due to staff shortages at Kiwoko I headed straight into a busy few weeks of conferenced and camp. First there was UFM family conference where Richard Underhill took us through the book of Ruth. This was very helpful and encouraging, focusing on the redemption of Naomi and seeing God's hand working through all her various circumstances. Also lovely to catch up with old friends and hear what God is doing throughout the world.



This was followed by the Aber conference, where the focus was on Revelation. It was then on to camp. We saw many answers to prayer on camp, with good weather, a great bunch of officers and campers, and clear



bible teaching. God seemed to be at work in a number of the campers so pray that the seed sown would not be snatched away or crowded out and that it would bear much fruit.

The next weeks involved a good number of miles in the car, visiting family and friends. It has been lovely to spend time catching up with people and I am grateful for the provision of beds, meals and a car to use. If you are amongst the people I haven't managed to see then I am

sorry. The time has flown by. Let's try and catch up next time!

In response to the people who feel the above activities don't constitute a rest, yes I have also had some rest ☺. Susanna, a fellow UFM missionary, and I spent a week in a caravan in West Wales. It is a beautiful part of the country and we enjoyed some days of sun, while other days we seemed to get all 4 seasons over a couple of hours. It was very relaxing as we read, played games and chatted. Another kind provision.

Returning

I fly back to Uganda on the 22nd of September so am now working through the to-do-list, trying to catch up with as many people as possible and thinking about what to pack. I imagine the actual packing will be done on the 21st!! As I consider heading back I am grateful for a time of physical and spiritual refreshing, for weeks of sleep with no on calls, and for a break from the ethical dilemmas, constant reminders of the stark injustice in the world and responsibility that comes with looking after a hospital full of patients. However I also look forward to getting back onto the wards and count it a great privilege to be part of the team in Kiwoko working to show God's love through our care and compassion, seeking to look after the whole person and be a witness to God in the community.

During the last months in Kiwoko and my time in the UK I have keenly felt my own weakness and tendency to look for security and purpose in places other than in Jesus alone. **Pray that as I go back I would keep my eyes fixed on him, that I would prioritise my walk with God even in the busy times and rely on him for the strength to do the work well and in a Christ like manner.** I echo Moses' words quoted above and am grateful for God's promise to never leave us or forsake us.

Kiwoko

Please continue **to pray for staffing issues**, especially the number of doctors. The last months have been challenging with a number of doctors leaving, some for further training and others for personal reasons. At some points there have been just 4 doctors looking after a 250 bed hospital round the clock. The situation is improving with 2 new junior Ugandan doctors joining this week and as well as the imminent return of one of our surgeons who has been away for further training. That means that when I arrive back next week we will be approaching the bare minimum we realistically need to run the hospital. A couple of those who have been there over the summer say that God has given them the grace needed to do the work, but that it has been tough and they are exhausted and looking forward to a rest when I get back. I'm hoping they don't all want to go on leave immediately though!!



This new team of doctors will be young and inexperienced but certainly the ones I met before coming away are **keen Christians and showed a great desire to serve and to learn. Pray that this would be true of the new ones too, and of me as we get to know each other and work as a team.** Part of my role is to look after them, to get us together to discuss the rota or other challenges but also to have some fun and cement friendships. **Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for me to recognise when someone needs encouragement and to promote unity amongst us.**

Friendships

Many of the people I had got to know and spent time with, including one of the nurses who had become a close friend, have left over the last few months. Comings and goings are a constant part of life in Kiwoko which makes developing deep friendships hard and it can be tempting not to bother at times. **Pray that God would lead me as I look to deepen friendships and make new ones.** The positive side is I have plenty of people to go and visit throughout Uganda now 😊. What a comfort to know that we have a friend who sticks closer than a brother who knows us better than we know ourselves but still loves us unconditionally.

I would love to hear your news while I am away so please do keep in touch and let me know how I can pray for you too.

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