



## Rory, Denise & Gideon Wilson

Kiwoko Hospital,  
Luwero Diocese, Uganda

Christmas 2012



CMS Ireland Link Letter

### Dear friends...

I (Denise) was in Kampala this week and was amazed at how much more Western the city is in its Christmas preparation. Shops were buzzing with special offers, imitation Santa Clauses giving out leaflets and the usual background carols or pop music that one hears in stores at Christmas. Outside one store there was even a brass band playing carols!

While Kiwoko may not suffer from the glitz and razzmatazz that comes with the Christmas season in Ireland, we certainly could compete with the hustle and bustle that one associates with this time of year. The heat of December makes all the business seem even more tiring – but we are not complaining, after our reminder of what cold weather is like during our 6 months in Ireland earlier this year. This month we have the Nursing and Laboratory School Sports, Music, Dance and Drama event, then the Hospital Christmas Party, Carol singing and ward ministry on Christmas Eve and a host of dinners around the Compound. Rory's mum is joining us for all the celebrations and we are looking forward to that immensely, especially Gideon.

Thanks to all of you who have been enquiring after Gideon, and praying for his re-entry into Ugandan culture. Initially Gideon was shy of people and a bit clingy. However he is enjoying life in the sun again – minimal clothing and footwear required. He visits our allotment (which he calls 'Uganda') a few times a week to dig and play with his best friend Anthony. I think this is the place where he is happiest.



While he isn't too keen on greeting everyone as the culture here expects, he is happy to greet his friends enthusiastically, no matter what their status. Often you can hear him yelling 'hello!' from the veranda at Sr Justine or Dr Peter (both very senior members of staff), and thankfully they go with it. Sadly he had forgotten his Luganda but as he hears the other languages spoken around him by the children, he copies them and articulates words as though he is speaking in tongues. Now and again we hear a Luganda word mixed up with some words from other dialects. It is amusingly delightful.

Rory has been incredibly busy since our return, a mixture of catching up, increased workload due to the finance director's vacancy and the threat of Ebola in the district. While it has been good for Rory to learn something more about the finances of the hospital it is not his desire or within his gifting to do the job, and so we are continuing to pray urgently for the role to be filled by God's person.

Denise has reduced her hours in the nursing school from 3 days to 2. This has given her more time to host people passing through, visit sick members of staff and those who have had children and to run a couple of fundraising activities, which also act as great tools to build new friendships. Gideon is also benefitting from the reduction in school hours by having mum around a bit more as he can join in with many of these activities

Sadly our Chaplain of 6 years, Rev Michael Mwanda, has being moved in the annual diocesan re-shuffle of clergy to a neighbouring town. This has come as a blow to us and to Michael. He now feels that Kiwoko Hospital is his home and it will be difficult for him to say goodbye. His replacement is called Reverend Asaph, recently married to Brendar and expecting their first baby. Asaph is known to us as he has been based at St John's over the last year. Pray for these Reverends and for the hospital during this period of change. Pray also for Michael's children as they have to adjust too.

The latest report on our garden is that we have harvested some cassava and sold it to the hospital canteen! The passion fruit are growing nicely at the side of our house along with rocket lettuce, coriander and a host of other herbs. Yum! We also harvested our own Christmas tree – planted less than 2 years ago. Thank you so much for all your support over the last year – financially, prayerfully and for those who helped us during our time in Ireland. We were so encouraged by our visits to link churches, observing how God has been working in the congregations and renewing friendships. We are so thankful for your partnership in the Gospel.

We know our communication is sub-optimal, but are grateful and delighted for all our friends who continue to stick with us. While we feel at home in Uganda with many wonderful people, our friends from Ireland continue to play a special role in our lives and our futures. Thanks for still journeying with us even over all these miles.

For Advent, Gideon and Rory are building a stable scene (in an old toaster box – more useful than the short-lived equipment which originally came in it.) Each day another character gets added – so far 2

shepherds, 7 sheep and 1 camel. Denise is troubled at the distinctly ovine nature of affairs so far. Gideon is aware that baby Jesus is coming (eventually) but we have a lot of livestock and characters to fit in first. Rory has noticed how much is going to be in the stable before Jesus arrives and hopes that He's going to be able to make it in.

More reflectively Rory has also noticed that Jesus didn't come into a vacuum to create His new Kingdom (this time.) The world, and the stable, were busy with many things - good and evil. That is where He came and started His work. Sometimes it is easy to dream of other places to be where life might be easier, resources more plentiful, the people we have to work with more skilled, we ourselves might be more gifted and less fallible...but God knew what He was doing when He put Jesus in the stable and He knows what He is doing by having us where we are today. We are blessed to be in Kiwoko – livestock and all, and there is some room for Jesus. We pray the same for you this Christmas.

Love from  
**Rory Denise and Gideon.**

### Prayer Points:

- The post of Finance Director would be filled as soon as possible.
- God would strengthen Rory during this busy period.
- God would continue to protect and provide for the Wilsons as they serve in Kiwoko.



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