

Thanks again for all your prayers.

As always it's been a busy time. As always God is faithful and good. We have experienced His great help – and are humbled and thankful.

'Fear the Lord your God and serve Him. HOLD FAST to Him and take your oaths in His name. HE IS YOUR PRAISE, he is your God who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.' Deuteronomy 10:20

Unwanted pregnancy

The time at Kiunga High School was great! A few unexpected obstacles on the way – namely flood across the road coming to above the knees of our scout! We were not sure what to do – but anyways went through ok. (I wish I'd remembered my camera to snap the innovative canoes the smiling kids had made from black palm)

Good attendance and interest from the students – even though it was Friday afternoon. Unfortunately no teachers came. Most of the students stayed around for half an hour looking at the models, leaflets, learning the song, one or two we prayed with. Sana's song called heart beat - Fearfully, wonderfully made – was a great hit. And there was a wonderful sense of involvement from all of the 9 of us - a mixed group of health and church ladies, so am very thankful for the good working together. Pray God will open up other opportunities. There are other schools that would be accessible. It was very timely as the previous week a girl from another Kiunga school died trying to kill her baby.

I did an adapted talk for our CHW students – for them personally (as most years some students are terminated because of this issue) – and for them as professionals. Again there was a good response and it is clearly a very relevant issue. Some of them and the health staff are being pressurised to give medicines that are abortive – although the dose is wrong as the drug is meant for other purposes. I have suggested they send any of their friends who request this to see me or Sharon (so we can counsel them).

So praise God for these opportunities. As one of the group said, this issue is not talked about openly, so a lot more awareness is needed.

Baptism class

We had another session this week – but only 1/2 the group came! Disappointing. I am reminded that we are in a spiritual battle. Some of those present asked for prayer as they feel attacked since starting baptism classes. Commitment to anything is hard here. So pray that this small example of commitment will show them the seriousness of commitment to Christ. Maybe some are not ready for a public step – so pray for wisdom. Apparently when they were away on placement some of the bad habits showed out again. But some have taken down unhelpful posters, changed their worldly music to gospel music. It shows the pull of the world and how hard it is to live a consistent and godly life. They need our prayers.

I may do a catch up class – it sounds like they were busy with assignments and it was too much to prepare for baptism class as well. Our next scheduled class is Saturday August 3rd on the Holy Spirit. Important and misunderstood subject – so need your prayers and God's wisdom. Also need wisdom on how to best train and involve the 2 pastors who don't seem that clear either!

Who is God

We had good training with 35 leaders. God's Word touched their hearts. Some said *"I am not going to blame magic. God is in control of death."* *'I was busy all the time. I will not do that now. I will take time to be with God and read His word'* *'I will start telling the truth, get rid of anger and bad words.'* *'I will spend time with God each day'*

Pray for much lasting change in their lives.

Pray for them as they go to their districts to teach what they heard.





We had 2 marches through the town of Daru (they do love their ceremony and marches!!)

At the provincial offices, law courts, school etc. we stopped and prayed.

It was quite a sight 80 of so women all dressed in uniform marching singing through the town!

Then on the last day we did outreach at the market place. It was encouraging to hear that there were extra people in church the next day and that some came to the elders of the church for counselling.



So pray there will be a lasting impact on the needy people of Daru – which has a reputation for not being safe, and many fear to move around, Apparently the residents said they had a really peaceful week and slept well during our course! So pray for God's wider purpose from our training course.



Court case

One angry patient is taking the hospital to court for the death of his baby. This has caused some anxiety and time, as leaders met with him and tried to help this difficult situation. Some are accused who should not be, so support and encouragement has been needed. I went with Sharon to the court yesterday to find, as I expected, that the magistrate wasn't there and the case is delayed till Tuesday. But we were encouraged talking to the clerk who seemed fairly confident the case will be dismissed. It was encouraging to hear her say that God is in control of life and death. Pray that Jerry and his family will find Christ. His family do not seem to be supporting him in this action. Pray that we will all learn what God has for us in this. I hope that it will help the hospital and staff to see the need to improve standards and to start giving the best possible care. Maybe this is a wake up call!

Unexpectedly I have a relatively free couple of weeks, so hope to get on with **writing and editing** - for PPP and Langham, and some re printing of other books. It will be good to have a less demanding time.

People We expect a new pilot and wife in the next month who will stay at Rumginae for about 4 months. Addy is away for a month, so we have the Priests and then Sharmeni covering for that.

We have 2 UK medical students and the usual on-going visits from different people. Not many dull moments here!!

The Director of Nursing (Mr Pia) is leaving after 13 years – so bung meal tomorrow. We also have advertised for a Health Secretary. So pray for the changes to leadership in the hospital. We so need a leadership that stands for the truth, willing to trust God and not succumb to pressures of culture and fear.

'The Lord says The wise should not boast of their wisdom, nor the strong of their strength, nor the rich of their wealth. If any want to boast they should boast that they know and understand Me, because My love is constant and I do what is just and right. These are the things that please Me. I the Lord have spoken. ' Jeremiah 9:23,24