

# Nicci's Update from Uganda – December 2018

Dear family and friends

Here's my final update for 2018....already!

**Workwise** – Outpatients has been a little busier during the past month, although we still haven't had that many admissions to the paediatric ward. The children we have admitted have been very sick indeed. We have seen a large number of children with malnutrition which has kept things ticking over in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit. The special care baby unit has been full to overflowing – whenever we manage to discharge a baby, we seem to admit another one (or two) within hours!

We have been struggling with equipment in the medical centre as some of our kit seems to have simply worn out or developed problems from excessive use! It is a real challenge to find the spare parts we need as much of the equipment is imported from overseas. It was wonderful to welcome Paul Darrall, a CMS Mission Associate and regular visitor to Potter's Village, back to Kisoro for a few days. Paul is an electrical engineer and he undertook a variety of electrical jobs around the compound and in the medical centre. Lots of non-functioning plug sockets and light fittings are working again! Thank you Paul!

I am really enjoying my Tuesdays at the government hospital. Apart from one day when it was uncharacteristically quiet, I have been kept busy doing a variety of things that might be useful to newborn babies and to the doctors and midwives who are trying to care for them.

On the management/admin side, there have been plenty of meetings to attend involving everything from finances to human resources to strategic planning and I have had to use some of my time off to support these. The team are pulling together very well to keep Potter's Village running effectively in the temporary absence of an administrator, but I think everyone is feeling the pressure of the added responsibilities. It will probably be several more months before the situation can be resolved and we have an administrator in post again.



*The views from Mutanda Lake Resort are spectacular!*

**Time off** – I spent a much needed and very relaxing weekend at Mutanda Lake Resort. It is such a quiet and beautiful spot overlooking the lake.

I had a day trip to Mbarara with three friends who are all at different stages of the Ugandan driving permit application or renewal process. I think I have successfully obtained a driving permit! I will know for sure when I return in a few weeks to collect it! Having a local licence will make life much easier than having to carry an International Licence everywhere!

Christmas hasn't begun in Kisoro yet – I'm not expecting to see or hear anything Christmassy until after the 20<sup>th</sup> December (some of you might wish you were in my shoes!) but I have put up an Advent calendar and a few decorations in my flat, just to remind me! I'll be working 24/7 for the two weeks over Christmas and New Year as Daniel will be visiting his family in Kampala.

On a personal note, the estate agent who is managing the letting of my house in Plymouth informed me that my tenant has lost her job and wishes to end the rental contract early. She has moved out but hasn't paid the rent for last month, nor the "early release fee" so the property can be re-advertised. It's a bit of a worry!

**Keeping in touch** – A huge thank you to everyone who has sent letters, cards, WhatsApps, emails and even parcels over the past few weeks! The post is very, very slow at the moment. My blog ([niccimaxwell.wordpress.com](http://niccimaxwell.wordpress.com)) is being read by around 100 people every month which is really encouraging – thank you!

All that's left is to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas season! Until next month (and a whole new year), love to you all,

*Nicci*

## **For your prayers**

*Give thanks for:*

- the way the Potter's Village team are working together to keep the project moving forward, despite challenging circumstances
- Paul Darrall's visit and the much needed electrical repairs he accomplished
- some time to relax at Mutanda Lake Resort

*Please pray for:*

- the whole Potter's Village team as we continue to face the challenges of an interim administration
- the ability to manage competing pressures on my time and energy and to find time to rest and recharge, especially over the Christmas period when I'll be working 24/7
- my house in Plymouth! Please pray for the former tenant, the estate agent and a quick and fair solution to the situation.