

1st May 2011

Dear friends,

Doctor situation in the Hospital

The hospital now has 4 Consultants. Dr Inoti (the Medical Officer in Charge), and Ophthalmic surgeon; Dr Wachira, a gynaecologist / Obstetrician; Dr Maina, a surgeon; and Dr Claire, Palliative specialist.

We have Dr Tsuma currently doing his Masters in Internal Medicine who is due to return to Maua in September this year.

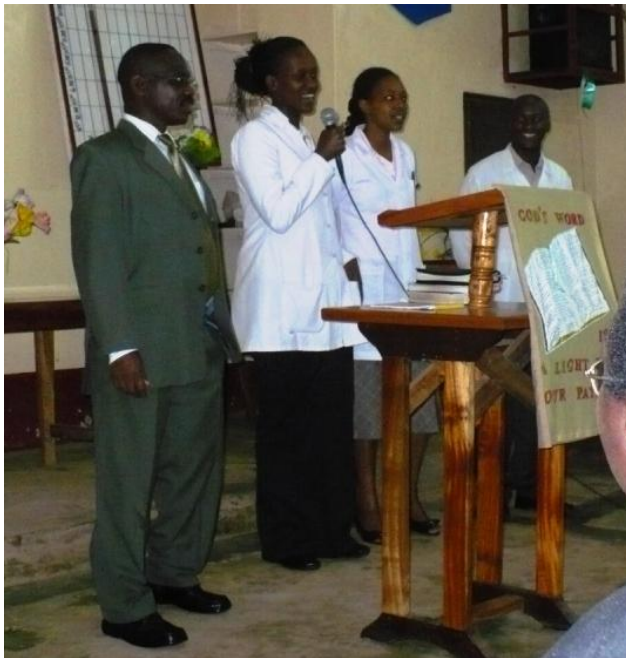
Dr Kamau has been with us for 2 years and hopes to do his Masters in Paediatrics later; Dr Mungai is seconded by the Government and hopes to specialise in surgery, Dr Wanjohi is a retired lady doctor who came to us from Government, and Dr Kilonzo who came to us from a Mission hospital.

Dr Simon Wachira is a doctor who started on 29th December. He had been working in Mandera with the Government and has now joined us. Unfortunately he broke his leg just before he came to us, and

then later had to have surgery for a different problem, so he is only just really joining the team.

Because we have been able to improve our doctor situation we have been approved by the Medical and Dental Practitioners' Board to have interns (doctors who have just qualified from University). The Board insists that we have at least 4 consultants before they will approve any hospital. Four interns reported in March and we are very happy to have them as we no longer should need locums to keep our services running.

Visitors



Dr. Maria Rivera, a Pharmacist has arrived to

help in the pharmacy and medical store. Maria is originally Spanish but has worked in Germany for many years. She went to Haiti last year to help with the relief effort after the earthquake and all the terrible things that occurred thereafter. We are glad that she is able to join with us again. Maria is so talented, in languages, music and general knowledge. We have been exercising with her – mostly Pilates type of exercise which is muscle strengthening.



Dr David Sarson and Mary came in February and left just after Easter in time to watch the Royal wedding in UK. David is a surgeon. Mary did a tremendous job sorting out the contents of a container of medical equipment donations that arrived from USA. Everything had to be catalogued, given a code for entering on the computer system, and then sent to the appropriate place for storage. Claire and I really enjoy having them here – this is the 11th time that they have come. We enjoy their sense of humour, Mary's food, and of course the table tennis we play at least 5 times a week. Unfortunately

Mary and I are on a losing streak, with David and Claire beating us more times than we like to recall.



We went to Samburu with them for a weekend, (for Claire & my birthday joint gift). We stayed at a new tented camp, very nice too. Then we had a weekend in Meru Game Park over Easter. Very special as we stayed at the exclusive Elsa's Kopje. It was partly a gift and partly our gift money for our birthdays; (half way between February (Claire) and May (Barbara). But Claire and I have booked a self-catering banda in Tsavo in May for my birthday treat and holiday.



We also had a 3 week visit of a Danish surgeon, Dr Else, who worked in Maternity allowing Dr Wachira to take some leave.



Work

I will be ready for a holiday by then because the contract of the Principal Tutor, Mrs Janet Mwamuye, expired in January 2011. The C.E.O. persuaded her not to leave immediately and she agreed to stay in position to hand over the running of the school until March 2011. I attended a number of farewell parties as different groups said goodbye to Mrs Mwamuye.

I was appointed as Acting Principal Tutor from 8th April and Leonard Mbaabu was appointed as Acting Deputy Principal Tutor. We expect the positions to be confirmed at the next Hospital Board meeting. It means I am doing all the work I used to do as I train Mbaabu, as well as doing the Principal's work. We get along so well and I am so pleased with Mbaabu's efforts so far. Please pray for him as he has so much to learn, He has already said that he didn't realise how much I did, and he doesn't know the half of it yet.



Both Mbaabu and I attended the annual

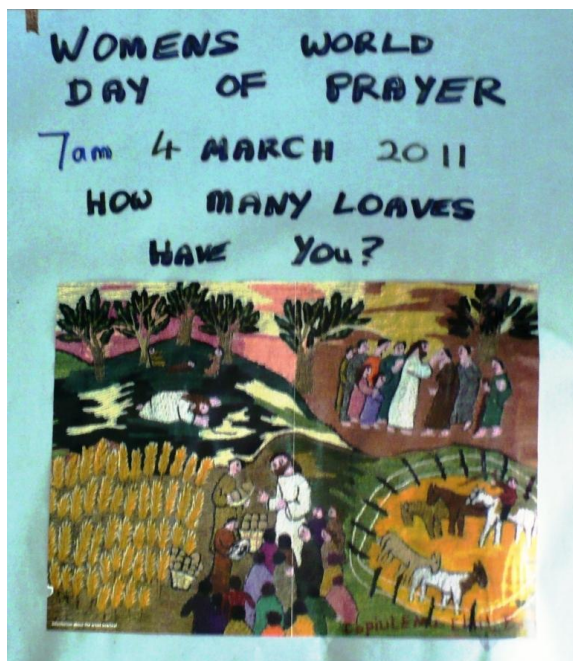
Christian Health Association of Kenya Conference and AGM. I wanted Mbaabu to network with other School of Nursing represented there. I have attended a few times as all the Schools are invited (all the Protestant medical institutions are invited).





We had a Women's day of prayer service at Maua – using the material sent from Norfolk. I put it all onto PowerPoint. This year I was away at a Conference for nurses, but others ensured that it happened. The conference was held at Brackenhurst in Limuru. So as well as getting my required hours of Continuing Professional Education (needed for renewing my license to practice) I met a lot of interesting nurses and had a few minutes to relax in the beautiful grounds after meals.

As Deputy Principal Tutor I was a member of the Technical Committee that has been working out the details required for KeMU to bring all their clinical medicine (clinical officer) students from the Kaaga campus to Maua this year. Now Mbaabu will take over on the Technical Committee and I will become a member of the Steering Committee. The two institutions are working on their collaboration, and it is expected to get closer as the University is hoping to begin medical (doctor) education in September 2011.



Kenya

Our rainy season has been so unpredictable. It rained in February for a week, so many people planted seeds. Then it did not rain in March when it was due, and many of the seedlings dried up, along with some rivers. Then it started raining again at Easter, with thunder and lightning and very heavy rain, especially at night. We have no idea what will happen to the crops now. Inflation has jumped to 12.05% (from an inflation rate of 9.19% in March) with high food and fuel prices being the major factors. Prices of basics like bread have already gone way up.



I thank you for the prayers
you have made to God our
Father. He does hear and

answer.

God bless you all

Barbara