

Nicci's update – May 2022

Dear family and friends

It's been a very long time since I've written one of these updates! A hectic schedule, a broken laptop and a period of home assignment in the UK have kept me from the task of updating you on what's been going on. Here goes...

Life and work in Kisoro kept up their usual busyness throughout November, December and January. Tourism was still pretty quiet and Covid was rife again in January with several of our staff becoming infected but despite this, work at Potter's Village became steadily busier as people's lives returned to a more normal pattern.

I was also busy with work at the government hospital, including plans for a new feeding/nutrition clinic aimed at breastfeeding mothers and their babies. I will be working alongside Rachel, the government hospital nutritionist, to encourage adoption of the UNICEF "Baby Friendly" principles in the maternity unit as well as running a free drop-in clinic for mums and babies with feeding concerns.

Activities in the Batwa community and at Rutaka Health Centre also continued at full speed and I was delighted to welcome several visitors to Kisoro in January and February too.

In mid-February I flew to the UK for a period of "home assignment" and a chance to visit my wonderful supporting churches and speak to them in person about the amazing difference their support is making to lives and communities in Kisoro. It was also an opportunity to see friends and spend Easter at my "home" church, St Andrew's, in Plymouth.



With Rachel, at our favourite coffee spot, planning our nutrition clinic!

My whirlwind of visiting people and churches came to a rather abrupt halt thanks to Covid – I tested positive just 24 hours after arriving in Plymouth. I didn't feel too ill and after 10 days was ready to get back to my busy schedule, made even busier by trying to fit in some of the visits I had missed (and couldn't do on Zoom) while isolating. Perhaps it was too much, too fast?!

I was due back in Uganda in the week after Easter but found myself at CMS's lovely community house in Oxford and on treatment for pneumonia instead! Thanks Covid! I had hoped to be better by today and had booked a flight for tonight but unfortunately I have had to postpone my return again because I am not yet better. I'm on more antibiotics with a promise of some further investigations via my GP if I'm not bouncing back by the end of the week. Oh dear!

I hope this update will become a regular thing again. If you don't wish to continue receiving it, please just let me know and I'll "unsubscribe" you. In the meantime, please keep in touch (drniccimaxwell@gmail.com) and there's still my blog (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) which I will update more frequently when I'm back in Uganda because there's not much to say at the moment! If you're in or near Oxford in the next couple of weeks, I'd love to see you even though I can't walk far or fast and I cough a lot!

That's all for now.

Much love to you all,
Nicci

For your prayers

Give thanks for:

- a busy and worthwhile period of home assignment
- the joy and blessing of seeing so many friends
- activities at Potter's Village becoming busier and a return to "normal" following Covid

Please pray for:

- a quick return to full health and a return to Uganda as well as wisdom and patience as I recover
- the many activities I feel I am missing out on – Batwa, Rutaka, Kisoro Hospital
- the Potter's Village team, especially the clinical officers, who have an increased workload in my absence