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# MENGO NOTES 1974

Volume 15, No. 2.



# MENGO HOSPITAL, UGANDA

[FOUNDED 1897]

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# MENGO NOTES

Vol. 15

No. 2

## MENGO NOTES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

For this issue of Mengo Notes we have been having a reassessment of contents, asking ourselves which articles are really helpful, what might be more helpful, and just what sort of things would give a clearer picture of the whole work here in the Hospital.

Looking through old copies of the Notes, brings back many memories. Stories of patients healed and saved, people who have worked here with us, some for many years. Short stories of events, like plays; or tours which build up the background of life here. We feel that lately we may have left out rather a lot of the Spiritual side of the work, and hope to tell you more in the present issue. Maybe the things we tell you will help you to pray in a more informed way.

We would also like to include news from our readers and supporters; many of us in Uganda find it difficult to visualize those in other lands who work hard to raise money in various ways to help the Hospital, as Friends of Mengo. Money to buy drugs, and surgical necessities; to pay for flights for expatriate personnel, and also their National Insurance contributions every week. Every new pence, every cent, goes to build up a Bank balance that enables Mengo to run smoothly. We are grateful to you, and to the Lord for His graciousness in supplying all our needs, and for this He often uses you.

If you would like to write to us, with your news, or just to say what you like in the Magazine, or to give some suggestions as to what might be included, we would be delighted to hear from you, and would hope to reply to each letter in due course!

G.N.O.





## “JONAH—THE RUN AWAY MAN”.

On 21st July this year we had a Quiet Day at Mengo Hospital; the 2nd one within the last two years, and we met in Dr. and Mrs. Oliver's House just behind the Hospital. The purpose of it all was just to get together as a Family, pray together and have fellowship. Unfortunately not so many people turned up. One could find possible reasons for this; but on the whole those who turned up made a good representation of the staff.

The day started with a cup of “delicious Uganda Coffee” served at about 10 a.m. after which Canon Yokana Mukasa, the former Dean of Namirembe Cathedral and a Member of the Board of Governors of Mengo Hospital was introduced to us as the one who was going to lead us. Canon Mukasa was not at all new to us; in fact he is one of us, and we all felt it. The word he brought us was taken from the book of the Prophet Jonah. We saw how Jonah tried to run away from the Presence of the Lord. “God” we were told, “had a special commission for Jonah, but Jonah decided to run away from it all.” We were reminded that like Jonah, we have tried to run away from many situations! A lively discussion followed the address and we broke off for lunch at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. we resumed the meeting and continued feeding on the Word. We finished at 4 p.m. with a renewed vision of our calling to serve the Lord in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves.

As I look back to it, I thank God for those who had the vision to arrange this sort of meeting, and I pray that what we have learnt will bear fruit within our lives.

Z. Kalega.

There is a Senior Staff Prayer meeting held at 8 a.m. each Wednesday morning, led by the staff in rota. There is also a short meeting for all staff in Out-patients on Monday mornings, sometimes taken by outside Speakers.

Our Nurses meet for prayer; Bible Study and Talks, both on Saturday in the Wills' House and Sunday evenings in the Quiet Room, most weeks. The Workmen have their special meeting on Monday afternoons.

We pray that we all may be drawn closer to the Lord and therefore closer together as a team working in the Hospital for His Glory.

Ed.

## TO HEAL IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.

To heal the whole man one must provide for his Peace with God, he must be able to hear the Word of God, and be helped to understand it. Many of the staff of the Hospital use every opportunity to speak of their Lord and Master, but some are here especially to help in this work.

The Reverend Katuramu, our Chaplain, is Vicar of the Cathedral, and a very busy man. He visits in the Wards and is available to take Communion Services when requested. Recently he has been ill and in hospital himself, and we do wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Miss Christine Nabugereka is also on the Cathedral Staff, but works a great deal in the Hospital. Talking to the patients and their relatives, speaking at services or prayers; assisting in arranging the rota for these, and especially helping with the children in the Thursday Spastic Clinic, and how they love her!

Ward Prayers are held every morning in each Ward, and also mid-morning in Out-patients. Often these are taken by the staff in the various departments in the Hospital, who come into the Wards around eight in the morning, to lead in the singing of an hymn, a prayer, and a message from God's Word. On Sundays there is a full Ward Service in two of the Wards, and patients from the other Wards are encouraged to join in.

Various Bible Literature is used for distribution in the Wards, sometimes given, sometimes sold, it is always available in various languages for those who wish to read it. There is a bookstall now run in Out-patients, with books of all kinds, especially christian ones on sale there. Many people will buy and read Christian literature in these days.

We do pray for a suitable person who would be free to work in the Wards, selling books and talking to the patients, helping them with the many problems associated with a stay in hospital, and witnessing to them of the Lord who can heal them in body, mind and spirit.

G.N.O.



## HOSPITAL MANAGER.

In September 1972, the Board of Governors of Mengo Hospital, with its Ugandanization Policy, appointed me to a new post of Hospital Manager designate. When I got the news, I shared it with my dear wife, and after prayerful thought, we accepted it. We realized right from the beginning that I was not accepting 'honours' but 'work and heavy responsibility'. A thought that came to me almost immediately was that of King Solomon when he said "I am but a little child, and I do not know how to go in or out..... Give therefore your servant wisdom that I may discern ....."

On January 1st 1974, I took over as Hospital Manager from Mr. A. S. Wills. I realized I was taking over from an extremely hard working man—one who had managed the affairs of the Hospital for the last seventeen years. I knew I had no experience to lean on, and my training in Administration was a rushed one, and I felt the need then, and still do of depending completely upon the Lord Who is the source of wisdom and knowledge; and I can say that up to now, the Lord has helped us, and no doubt He will continue helping us. This Lord I am talking about I have known for the last seventeen years. He met me at the age of seventeen—while I was still at school and SAVED me. As I look back, I see how graciously He has taken care of me, and brought me even where I am now.

I know this is just a beginning, and a lot has to be done so as to maintain the high Administrative standards of the Hospital together with its spiritual standing and I take these things and indeed many others as direct challenges to me. For all these things which need to be done, I shall need the Lord more than ever. Please remember me in your prayers.

Lastly I would like to say that I am here to serve you, and if ever there is something you would like to know or see about the Hospital, please get in touch with me, I will do all I can to help you.

Z. Kalega

## COMINGS AND GOINGS.

In our last issue we mentioned that Miss Rosemary Sweetnam our Sister Tutor was about to go on leave, and that her future was uncertain. The Lord has shown her that for family reasons she should stay in Ireland for a while, so she will not be returning here.

We do want to thank Rosemary for all the work she did here in the schoolroom and outside it! We do appreciate the long hours she put in, not only in teaching the nurses but in helping them in many other ways, and wish her God's blessing in her work. Rosemary would like to say "Thank you" to all those who helped in the schoolroom by sparing time to teach various subjects like English, and to ask for your prayers for the Sister Tutors in their often difficult task.

We are glad to welcome Sister Kisoro to our Training School where she is training Nurses and hope she will enjoy her work here as one of the team at Mengo.

Liz Crockett who came to us for a year to work in the Pharmacy returned to England. We have been very glad to have her with us for this time and wish to record our appreciation of all she has done. Very best wishes for your future work for the Lord wherever this may be. At present we have no trained Pharmacist, elsewhere in this issue you will read about the work of David Kamunda. Mrs. Wills helps with Bulk Store and Drugs in the mornings, and Sister Claire Michelle is back with us on Thursday afternoons, for ordering and advice.

The Medical Staff has been joined for six months by Dr. Alec Bookless, who retired from General Practice in England and came out to help us. It is a joy to have him. We reckon, by the end of his six months he will know more about the countryside than most of us do who live here; he is a great worker, and a great walker.

More news on the Medical side is that Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Vaughan, now at Kisizi Hospital, hope to join us for a short while from mid December. It will be good to have them back here, Sheila (nee Rice) was with us for some time helping in the Physiotherapy Unit before she trained as a Physio herself. Kevin's cousin, Muriel Vaughan worked here for many years in the Pharmacy and has just returned to U.K. after working for Government here;



after leave she hopes to work in Peshawa Pakistan, in Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy work.

Sister Mary Nsereko has also left us, she was working in the Maternity Ward and as Safari Sister. We miss her very much, and wish her every happiness in her new job

## A CARING HAND

(by David Kamunda from the Pharmacy).

It was March 1972, and my thoughts were wandering here and there with no hope at all, about my future; when a message came from Mengo Hospital to me through a friend, that someone was needed in Mengo Pharmacy for a year after which he would be sent to a government training. It only took me about four days to come from my home district—Kigezi to Kampala soon after receiving the message.

I arrived in Kampala in the morning and around 10.00 a.m. I was in Mengo Pharmacy in Mr. Zac. Kalega's Office who was in charge exchanging views about the vacancy. What a blessing to meet a brother in the Lord in a new place. I will never forget how encouraging and friendly I found him. And as we talked, I began to feel hopeful about my future.

I had never thought I would take up Pharmacy work. My plans were quite different according to my ambitions. I thought that at one time I would be a school—teacher or something else but not at all in the Medical World. "God has said and will continue to say: My thoughts are not your thoughts, My ways are not your ways. I know the plans I have for you, for welfare and not evil, to give you a future and hope". When I arrived in Kampala, my lunch was only a solution of sugar probably whose concentration was about 0.05% or less. Praise Him, although time seemed to drag because of such conditions in the long run I was over it.

"Through this world of toils and snares, if I falter Lord who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee."

17th April, 1974 I was in Mengo Pharmacy. I was asked to start with elementary duties like Ward-Basket filling. I had to learn everything since this was quite different from School life. And next, I

was taught how to compound medicines. It took me time to get used to General Hospital smell of drugs in the Pharmacy. I thank God for Mr. Kalega and his Staff whose friendship and brotherhood made me settle down very quickly and this enabled me to get on with the new things I had to do. I found it a bit difficult to communicate with other people specially when they could not speak English. But eventually I improved in my Luganda and I ended in dispensing medicine to the out-patients.

No sooner had I resumed my duties on the 17th April, 1974 than Mr. Zac Kalega offered me free accomodation at Lungujja. Because of a lot of mosquitoes around the place, very often I suffered from Malaria. Buying food, peeling it if there was any need, and cooking it was not all that enjoyable. But all along I realised God as the nearest in time of need. Robbers used to come to Lungujja late at night forcing themselves into almost every house, and taking property. I was always scared at night. But the kind Lord one day asked me if I would agree to have Him as my guard against such evil people. I willingly accepted. One night around 2.00 a.m. in the morning I heard an alarm of people from near my house. In a few minutes light from torches was flashing in the house in which I was through the ventilater above my bed. I heard voices outside the house. I felt my heart was in my mouth. What could I do next? I do not know what my guard did to the robbers but soon the voices and light faded away. They had gone! Five minutes after their departure in a distance of about 500 metres, I heard bullets rattle out of guns into the air.

OH! What a guard.

"Fear not for I am with you till the close of the age".

In the midst of all this I was looking forward to joining the Government training. Our Hospital Manager then Mr. Sam Wills had written to the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health asking for my training towards the end of 1972 and the reply was promising and I would be able to join the course in May 1973. The Hospital and I waited impatiently to receive a letter from the Permanent Secretary confirming my training in Government. But there was none—so the Medical Superintendent wrote back to him early 1973.

Then it was confirmed that I was allowed to join the Government Training in May. But unfortunately, no date specified. We waited,



May was over, June no sign as to when the Course would start until late July when it was officially specified that the course was to start on 1st August, 1973. At last I felt the burden of impatience and despair released from me. On the actual day I started the course at Mulago Dispenser's Training School. A few days later I moved, from Lunguja to the Hospital campus.

In all this, I praise the Lord for Dr. Oliver, Dr. Bateman and his Church in England for their willingness to carry the burden of my future. How wonderful that God spread over me His parental care through Miss Mary Kegel who is now in Surrey England. I am glad she left me with a Sunday-School Class at Mackay's Church—Nateete. It is through His word that some times when I grow cold I am lifted up again to Him. Praise Him for the daily fellowship in the Hospital.

May the Almighty whose hands hold my future continue to take control of me for the Glory and honour of His name until that day.

Praise Him!

David Kumunda

(Dr. Bateman and his Church in England help to support David with monetary gifts towards his training. David works in the Hospital Pharmacy for part of most days, and studies at Mulago for the other part. Ed.)

### FRIENDS OF MENG0 IN ENGLAND.

Miss Margaret Bond is now back in England and has sifted through the addresses of Friends of Mengo in U.K. She has been encouraged by letters enclosing donations, after reminder forms have been sent out. Cost of printing has risen here and to cover cost and postage of two Magazines per year and a donation to the Hospital Funds, Friends are being asked for £1.25 per year minimum. If you just cannot afford this, but would like information about the Hospital in order to pray for us, please write to Miss Bond sending what you can and she will send you Mengo Notes. Thank you all for supporting us with your gifts and especially with your prayers.

We still receive parcels of knitted blankets, and vests from Mrs. Leaton and her friends at Wokingham. She writes "Thank you for the news contained in your letter, I can use some of it



Mr. Kalega and Dr. Oliver discussing plans on the Hospital Building Site.



for our Church magazine, it is good to have 'red hot news' to bring to the Church Members to help them understand about the Church overseas. Making items in the parcels has certainly helped several elderly ladies to have a new purpose in life, using the spare time they have in their own homes." Thank you Wokingham.

If you would like some 'red hot news' to use, do let us know!

## WHAT MENG0 STANDS FOR.....

(Adapted from 'Twenty Questions about Mengo Hospital).

What are its Aims?

They are summed up in our Constitution, as follows: "Recognising that the deepest needs of men and women everywhere can only be met by a personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, the Governors and Staff of the Hospital intend to fulfil His two-fold command to preach and to heal the sick by:

- (I) Proclaiming the Gospel in order to lead men and women to accept Christ as their personal Saviour and to deepen the spiritual life of Christians.
- (II) Providing medical and surgical advice and aid, and training nurses and midwives and other medical workers in the prevention and cure of disease."

What evangelistic opportunities are there?

Over two thousand short services are held each year in the different wards and departments, besides Christian Fellowship meetings, Bible classes and distribution of Scripture booklets. What about overseas help with expenses?

We do receive generous help from countries like West Germany and the Netherlands, gifts have come from Canada, U.S.A., Australia, and other places, particularly for some of our new buildings. We receive generous help from our Friends of Mengo in England, and from the Church Missionary Society in staffing. What happens if a patient cannot afford the treatment in the Hospital?

No-one is ever refused treatment for want of money, as there is a special fund (the Samaritan Fund) from which such patients

can be helped. This fund is raised by private donations, twenty-five per cent of all donations go to the Fund.

How can I help?

By becoming a 'Friend of Mengo'. For a small donation yearly, each Friend receives 'Mengo Notes' twice a year, this gives up-to-date news of the Hospital, and prayer requests. Please apply to your nearest Representative, see back page, or to the Editors or Hospital Manager at Mengo, who will also answer other enquiries.

## FRIENDS OF MENG0—UGANDA BRANCH.

Dear Friends and Wellwishers,

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of you will remember how Mr. John E. H. Wilson, former Sales Manager of Caltex (U) Ltd. felt the conviction and need to organize local friendship with view to raising funds to help Mengo Hospital. The friendship was formed in early seventies, but unfortunately some of the members of the Management Committee left the country, soon after its formation. In the first quarter of 1974, Mr. John E. H. Wilson, also left Uganda for a study tour in U.S.A. Before he left the country, Mr. John E. H. Wilson very carefully wound up the accounts of the friendship and paid the Balance of the account to Mengo Hospital. He requested me to inform all members and wellwishers of the friendship of his departure to U.S.A., and suggested that members send their periodical subscriptions direct to Mengo Hospital. All money received will be acknowledged with an official receipt from the Hospital, and news of the Hospital will be sent to all members regularly.

Lastly, can I say how confident Mr. John E. H. Wilson was as we talked before he left, that the friendship will continue even in his absence. No doubt he gathered this confidence over the period of the four years he handled the affairs of the friendship. Can I say how deeply dedicated I am to the affairs of Mengo Hospital; and in fact I was one of the founder members of our local friendship. Believe me, your money will be getting into the right hands.

If there is anything you would like to know about the friendship or the Hospital itself, please let me know.

Yours very sincerely,  
Z. Kalega,  
HOSPITAL MANAGER.



(Erata. We are sorry that in our last issue this Organization was called Friends of Mulago! as it was on the Prayer List: Apologies for bad proof reading. Ed.)

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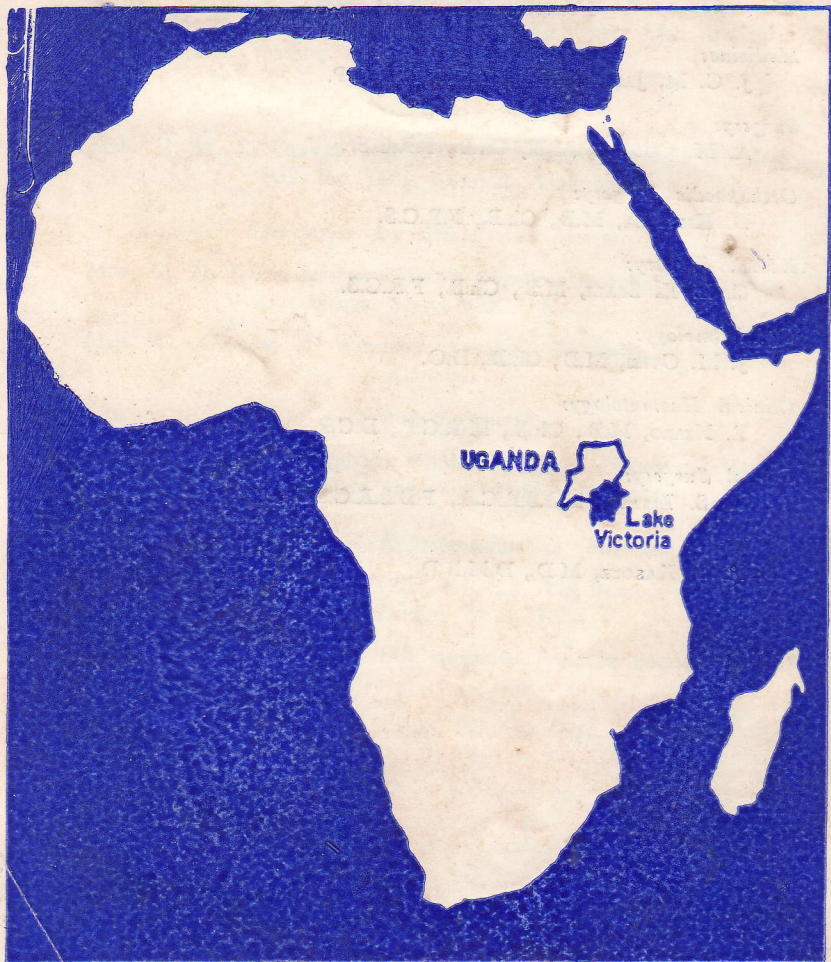
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**MAP OF AFRICA**  
showing Lake Victoria and  
**UGANDA**