

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kaimosi! We have so much news to share!!

Our New Administrator — John Mulama joined our staff in mid-September – a bit later than we expected, and not a moment too soon! He is settling in very well, although changes in leadership always involve a bit of adjustment on the part of the rest of the staff. Already he has made a huge impact on the Hospital, finding ways to improve efficiency and customer service, saving money wherever possible, and updating all our policies and procedures. His energy, hard work, professionalism and commitment are an inspiration to us all!

Signing of “MOU-II” — On the 25th of January, Friends United Meeting signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with East Africa Yearly Meeting for ongoing management of the Hospital. This agreement was carefully negotiated over a long period of time, and represents the shared commitment of both organizations to the long-term health and well-being of the community. With your help, FUM plans to invest considerable time, energy, prayers and financial support to the restoration of Kaimosi Hospital.

A New Ambulance — We have had the incredible experience of receiving an unsolicited “tithes” of inheritance money – not once, but *twice* over the last few months! Both these generous individuals wanted to make a direct impact on saving lives. Together they gave \$47,000, and we have now ordered a new Landcruiser ambulance from Toyota Kenya. No longer will we have to transport critically-ill patients in our little 4-door Corolla! Praise God for His faithfulness and perfect timing.



Our new ambulance will look like this!

Adopt-a-Nurse — Thanks to the generosity of so many people, Adopt-a-Nurse is now covering about 2/3rds of the nursing payroll each month. This is a huge help to the Hospital and has allowed us to hire and retain more nurses, and to pay them more competitive rates (although still considerably less than the government rates of pay). Just \$200 pays a nurse for a month. Nursing is the cornerstone of our quality of care and customer satisfaction. Thank you for helping us invest in these important individuals!

Rain water collection — Thanks to FUM’s Water Fund, we have installed rain water collection on the new sections of roof. As anyone who has visited Kaimosi knows, the municipal water system is ancient and unreliable. With these three tanks in place, the Hospital can now withstand extended water outages. Thanks to everyone who contributes to the Water Fund!

HIV/AIDS Care — Late in 2007, Kaimosi Hospital joined the ranks of hospitals offering specialized HIV/AIDS care and treatment through a programme funded by the Global Fund through the Christian Health Association of Kenya. This excellent programme offers a comprehensive, community-based approach to the disease – including testing, counseling, post-test support groups, pediatric HIV+ play groups, anti-stigma campaigning, mobile clinics, community outreach, nutritional education (including a “teaching garden” on the hospital grounds) and of course, free anti-retroviral drugs for those who need them. Now that we have completed our one-year “rapid start-up”

of the programme, we are waiting to be assigned a long-term funding partner. In the meantime, the hospital’s operating budget is absorbing the cost of this clinic – all services continue to be provided free of charge.

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The Challenges Ahead

Although we've made remarkable progress in the three years since FUM assumed management of Kaimosi Hospital, there



The row of staff houses built by FUM in the 50s

are still many challenges ahead of us! The Board is just finalizing a strategic plan to guide us, but sometimes it feels like everything is urgently needed, right away!

One of the most important priorities right now is to **hire our own staff doctor**. Dr Kamau, who is posted to us from the Ministry of Health, has been serving as the only doctor at the hospital – imagine being “on-call” 24/7 for three years!! A medical officer is a well-paid professional. We need about \$1500 per month for salary and benefits, which is beyond the means of the Hospital's income. At the last Hospital Board meeting, we agreed to ask all the Kenyan Quaker doctors to join us in a “challenge” fundraising effort. If we can raise at least half the money within Kenya, will our Friends abroad help us raise the rest? We're confident that a staff doctor will improve community relations and that by the end of the first year, patient income will have increased sufficiently to absorb the extra cost.

Another “urgent” priority is to **improve our staff housing**. The Hospital compound contains some nice houses which were built by American monthly and yearly meetings in the 1950s. However, deferred maintenance has rendered these akin to slum conditions! It is a real sorrow to us that our hard-working staff are housed in such poor buildings. A work-team through Africa Great Lakes Initiative helped carry out critical repairs, but much more work is needed. \$9,000 per house would be enough to make us proud of our staff housing again!



Florence's house was built by Florida Ave Meeting, Baltimore YM

A Call for Missionaries

The Hospital Board has issued a call for a missionary doctor and a business manager. Missionaries bring new energy and excitement to the hospital, as well as adding staff capacity without drawing on the hospital budget. Are you ready to serve? Do you know someone whom you can encourage to pray about it? Contact Terri Johns at FUM's Indiana office for more information.

Ways you can help

Your biggest contributions are your prayer support and encouraging emails. Thank you so much for caring about Kaimosi Hospital, and letting us know that you remember the people who work tirelessly for its renewal. In addition, here are some funding needs that you can help with, and also spread the word to others:



Agatha lives in the New York YM house.

- ◆ Bed linens – the hospital's linens are in sorry shape (we wash by hand, so linens do wear out!). \$10 per bed will provide two sets of new sheets.
- ◆ Water filters – we would like to place BioSand water filters throughout the facility, at a cost of \$50 each. Read about this amazing technology at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BioSand_Filter.
- ◆ Adopt-a-Nurse – \$200/month supports one nurse.
- ◆ Doctor's salary – \$1500/month would underwrite the salary and benefits of a medical doctor.
- ◆ Staff housing – \$9,000 could fix up one 2-bedroom house.
- ◆ Finish the roofing/renovation – the main hospital “quad” needs about \$80,000 to complete the renovations.
- ◆ Container shipment – FUM has an opportunity, through World Medical Relief, to ship a 40 foot container full of donated medical equipment. We're still looking for about \$10,000 to cover the door-to-door cost from Detroit to Kaimosi.

Finally, Let us once again thank you for your support. We couldn't do this work without you!

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