



FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

December 2015 Newsletter



Christmas greetings!

My Christmas card this year takes the form of an update from the Ruth Gaylord Hospital in Maganjo, Uganda.

Hospital CEO

Peter Kiggundu writes about a 17-year-old girl who became a mother more quickly than she expected, and



A new mom, a new baby and a new blanket

then sought assistance from the hospital.

The Christmas story is about another young mother who a bit unexpectedly delivered into this world a healthy baby boy who would one day be known as *Son of God* and who would disclose to us that we are, each one of us, a son or daughter of the universe's creator.

Created in God's image, each one of us is special, endowed with human dignity that, in its origin, is divine. The Ruth Gaylord Hospital is called upon to honor and recognize the human dignity of each and every patient who comes through its doors. What better way to celebrate Christ's birth – each and every day?

Be assured of our deep gratitude for your encouragement, your abundant generosity and gracious support over the past year.

Christmas blessings!

Reverend Dennis Dease

Good news!

The first surgical procedure took place in the Ruth Gaylord Hospital's new operating room on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015. Surgeons repaired the leg of a motorcycle accident victim, a 33-year-old mother of triplets.



Ruth Gaylord Hospital helps babies and mothers get a healthy start

By Peter Kiggundu, Chief Executive Officer

Ruth Gaylord Hospital continues its mission of taking care of mothers and their babies – however we encounter them! I think often of 17-year-old Robinah Babirye of Maganjo, the village where the hospital is located. Robinah didn't recognize the early signs of labor before she delivered her firstborn, a baby girl, at home a few months ago.

Much to the relief of her mother, the baby was born healthy and named "Gift Ssanyu" – which means "Joy" in the Luganda tribal language (*little Gift is pictured below*).

But Robinah herself wasn't faring so well. Soon she was suffering from excessive bleeding and came to us the night she delivered. Here the doctors and nurses took steps to stop the bleeding and treated Robinah so that she and her child would not develop sepsis, a life-threatening complication from infection that is quite common in Uganda.

Robinah, who lives with her mother-in-



law in a household of 10 children, does not expect any help from her baby's father, a teenager like herself and unemployed. When she arrived at our hospital, she had barely any supplies for the baby. So we provided bedsheets, a blanket, towels, medicated soap, clothing and other items. We continue to look after Robinah and her baby, who receives vaccinations, regular checkups and, thanks to the hospital's many friends and benefactors, more free provisions that will help Gift get a good start in life.

Due to the limited diagnostic capabilities of many health care providers in our area, we also continue to receive ever-increasing numbers of patients either referred to us by other health care centers or patients who come to us on their own. They seek better treatment after disappointments at smaller clinics. Some have spent a lot of money on misdiagnoses and poor care. Here at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital, however, we can perform many diagnostic tests and have a lab onsite. For more uncommon medical testing, we partner with specialized laboratories in the capital city. The Ruth Gaylord Hospital also has broader options for prescription drugs so that patients can be treated at different stages of infection.

The hospital's role as a trusted resource for medical services continues to grow – just like Gift!

Peter Kiggundu is a two-time University of St. Thomas alumnus. He earned his B.A. in accounting and entrepreneurship in 2010 and his M.B.A. with concentrations in management and finance in 2013.