

Dear Friends,

December 7th 2012

A few weeks ago I stood up in church and asked if you could help a friend of mine in Northern Uganda. In case you were not there let me recap briefly. For some years, we as a church have been sending money to help Rev James Okoyo to build a church building in Pakwelo, the small village in Northern Uganda where he is a priest. Priests in Uganda are paid a tiny wage but due to the poverty in the region this does not always come regularly so they survive on finding some land where they can practise subsistence farming. For some years now Hilda, James' wife has had considerable back problems which have made sitting, standing and lying all painful. The local hospital is poorly equipped and has never come up with a satisfactory diagnosis or treatment.

I asked you if you could help pay for Hilda to get a proper diagnosis in a hospital in the capital, Kampala. We needed money to pay for a taxi for the 4 hour journey there (she couldn't manage on the bus) as well as for accommodation, the consultation and any tests. You were very generous and on Monday 28th November in the evening they set off for Kampala for their Tuesday appointment (travelling overnight so they didn't have to pay for accommodation on Monday night).

The hospital carried out a lot of tests. We are thrilled to say that they have now found the problem and the solution. This is fantastic news.

Hilda has 2 vertebrae which are crushed (possibly from a lifetime of carrying water on her head) and needs an operation to insert a plate. The doctors are hopeful that this will be a complete cure and she will be pain free afterwards. Can you imagine that after years of back pain? The doctors also said that without it she would probably end up paralysed from the neck down eventually.

In order to book the appointment for the operation James had to go to the hospital with the money to pay for it. Despite your generosity there wasn't quite enough to pay for the operation.

What should we have done at this stage? You had given money already. I hope we did what you would have wanted us to do. We sent all the money you had donated and added some of our own because we trusted that you would want to carry this through.

So we have paid for the operation. Hilda was admitted to hospital on Wednesday 7th December and her operation is booked for this Monday 12th December.

But there are further costs. Hilda will be in hospital for 3 weeks. All treatments and medicines she needs will have to be paid for separately. There is even a charge for the surgical collar she needs and for access to a latrine she can use.

Hospital in Uganda is not like our hospitals here. You need someone with you to cook all your food for you and to care for you. James will need to stay in Kampala and talk to doctors etc (Hilda doesn't speak English or the local language of Kampala). A sister in law of Hilda will go to live in the hospital with her and care for her – she needs money to pay for the bus to get her there and back. One of James' sons has transported some food from home for them. Staying in Kampala is expensive – normally they take from their sack of beans and their sweet potatoes and cook them; now they have to buy all the food and they are even buying bottled water. After the operation she will no doubt need more medicine and she may have to return for a check up at some stage.

If you have ever benefited from free NHS treatment this really brings home how valuable it is.

I know you have been generous already and I know Christmas is coming up and there are other calls on your generosity but I am asking you to help finish what we have started. I can't even say exactly how much money we are looking for but we think that if we can find another £1000 that that may cover it.

I cannot imagine what it is like to be in considerable pain for years but I'm sure it would be amazing to then have it removed.

Please give whatever you can to Archbishop Janani Luwum Trust,
who make the payments for us, marking it 'Gift For Hilda' .

Account Name: Archbishop Janani Luwum Trust

Sort Code: 30-92-90

Acc number: 02459327

Or you can give Martin or Thalia cash at church.

If you pay tax and can gift aid and this is your first time giving through the trust please
Ask Martin for a form to complete..... martinjamescarr@yahoo.com

We are so grateful for your help and more importantly 'God loves a cheerful giver'

Thank you

Martin and Thalia Carr martinjamescarr@yahoo.com 07834768058

