

A Short Report on the Poole Hospital Visit in February 2013

This report is made from Excerpts of the Poole Hospital Team blog which they kept during their stay. [Read the whole blog here.](#)

We had a smooth journey from Heathrow to Juba, arriving to the usual bustle of Juba airport on Saturday morning. We were transported with all our luggage – 10 big bags with our kit, plus hand baggage – to Juba Bridge Hotel, where we had a relaxing day meeting up with several old friends. We made an early start after breakfast this morning (we all gave the stewed chicken stomachs a miss!), back to the chaos of Juba airport where we eventually boarded the WFP (World Food Programme) flight to Wau. Here we were met by our old friend Dr Alex Bakiet, who has recently been appointed Director General of Wau Teaching Hospital (WTH). . Wonderful to be back here in Wau Teaching Hospital. It's hot, and we are now



Hilary greets old friends

rested from a long flight and a slight temperature shift from snow to temperatures that are melting ice in transit from the door to the eagerly awaited glass of beer.

In the hospital things are only just getting back to normal after a week of closure during the “troubles” in mid December. The doctors are all back now, and it is an opportunity in fact to focus on teaching and management issues while the wards are quiet. For the three of us who have been here before, we notice a huge improvement on our tour of the hospital with Dr Marcellos.

On the surgical side there is a new male surgical ward, which is spacious and has an area for pre-operative assessment. Patients only have a short walk to the newly refurbished theatre, which is white with a beautiful new floor. All the rubbish has been cleared, and the oxygen concentrator is working well: well used and very much appreciated! We’ve had such an eventful day today: a patient with prolonged obstructed labour needed an emergency caesarean section. The second theatre was opened up, a theatre table was produced from nowhere at high speed and a difficult c/s performed. The baby was born blue, flaccid and pulseless, but Sara’s quick



Peter at work

intervention with neonatal resuscitation soon got a pulse, and spontaneous resps at 20 minutes. Judy and Abi spent most of the day with Dr Elias in theatre discussing all matters between cases: for Abi this was her first experience of real live bowel surgery!

Today has been one of highs and lows. At 9.00am we went to see the recently refurbished Comboni hospital run by Sister Maria, who is away at present, so we were shown round by Sister Rosemary. The efficiency, professionalism, cleanliness and treatment of patients is superb, just what a hospital here should be. It was discouraging to return to WTH as realised just how much needs doing to bring it anywhere near to

that standard. Everyone has been teaching today, either groups of nurses on the wards or formal teaching. Peter and Judy have had a few more doctors today for their talks, but Abi was discouraged as the 9 nurses who turned up for her teaching in Paediatrics on infection control grumbled because the talk lasted more than 10mins!!

This week we've seen 2 children die who would have survived in the UK, but Sara has successfully resuscitated 2 newborn babies



Abi enchants a new baby

This afternoon I went off to interview bishop Moses. The Episcopal Church is at the back of the hospital. The interview was one of several I'm doing to be broadcast on BBC Radio Solent.

Well, we are now basking in the glow from our halos having attended not one, but three services this morning. Hilary was on splendid form and gave a lovely sermon about finishing lines and taking part in life's race through an image of the Dorset summer sailing Olympics. So good in fact that Bishop Moses asked her to deliver it to the Dinka service (with translation) and then whisked us all off to deliver it to the

Arabic service (translation a little more complex). We did notice it was a little shorter the third time!

Abi & Judy have spent some time on the surgical wards, but at times its very discouraging, they found a nurse, despite some training last week, disposing of her 'sharps' in a plastic waste paper basket outside the ward; they had 4 sharps bins on the ward, sometimes they just don't seem to get it!!!

Judy and Peter have an increasing number of doctors turning up for teaching, which is encouraging. Sara has spent the day at the Comboni Hospital's very well run antenatal clinic which she enjoyed hugely; she, Abi and Peter have taught the CHTI midwifery students for 2 hours this afternoon.



The Bishop and the Preacher

I think I've got enough footage today for a successful video, and have continued with my interviews for BBC Radio Solent, which I hope will be broadcast after we get back to UK.

We then took a trip to see the Minister of Health, Dr Isaac Cleto in his office in Wau. He was very welcoming, and we were able to describe our trip so far, and some of the deficiencies which between himself and Dr Bakiet, (Director General of Wau Hospital) they will hope to put right in the coming months. Hilary was also recorded for Wau local radio, and we took

some pictures.

Abi, Sara & I went to see the site on which Sister Gracey hopes to build a new hospital, about 5km from the airport; it will be a challenge, but is much needed. I collected a lovely cake which Sister Gracey made us when, later in the day, I took her some kit and collected our tickets to Juba tomorrow from the airport. I also visited

Dr Majok's wife and Bishop Moses. The midwives seemed sad to say goodbye to Sara, and the family of a man Abi has cared for on the male surgical ward expressed their deep appreciation to her. We returned from the hospital for Sara to do yet another teaching, as she's in great demand to teach the student nurses, leaving Judy in her element in the middle of a major surgical operation in theatre.

Yesterday was one of saying 'goodbyes' to the nuns at CHTI, who have been so hospitable to us and to our colleagues at Wau Teaching Hospital. We arrived at the hospital prior to our flight from Wau, to find that sadly the patient who Judy had operated on the previous evening had died during the night. In the UK his chances of survival would have been 60-80%.

We checked in at the newly refurbished Wau airport, which apart from the toilets in the departure area (which even Judy couldn't bring herself to use), is much improved with a tarmac runway. Maybe we will be able to get a direct flight from Bournemouth one day???



The Poole Hospital team in Wau