



# Nicci Maxwell

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**Location:** Kisoro, Uganda



**What I do:** Providing paediatric and neonatal medical care to the community, and providing training, mentorship and support to local healthcare workers.

Dear friends,

Greetings from Liverpool!

I have been at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for almost three months, studying towards the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H). The course has been very busy with full days of lectures and laboratory practical sessions plus some study and preparation at home during evenings and weekends. There are 29 of us in the class and we are a diverse bunch in age, nationality, medical speciality and overseas experience, which makes for some fascinating conversations and adds plenty of interesting perspectives to the teaching. We all seem to get on well, so it has been lots of fun too. The teaching has been excellent with many of the lecturers being recognised as world experts in their fields. I have found it a huge challenge to get back into formal study again after quite a long break – it's been a couple of decades since I last wrote a formal exam! By the time you read this, I will have finished writing my exams and will be awaiting the results, which are due in mid-January.



*My cohort training in Liverpool this autumn.*

Despite the intensity of the course, I have managed to see a bit of Liverpool. It's a lovely city with great museums, theatres, restaurants and parks. I have also been attending a very welcoming local church. I have thoroughly enjoyed living here and I'm very grateful for having had a safe place to stay at a reasonable rent for the duration of the course – a real answer to prayer. Immediately after the exams, I will be moving back to Oxford for a while, where some wonderfully generous friends have offered me the use of their newly-renovated home for minimal rent. Another wonderful answer to prayer. Oxford is very conveniently placed for visits to/from all over the UK, so if you would like to meet up during December, please let me know.

I have loved seeing the changing colours of autumn this year because it's such a contrast to Kisoro which really only has two seasons – “wet” and “dry”. As the days get chillier, shorter and wetter here in England, I'm beginning to miss my life in Uganda. I am still getting regular messages from friends and colleagues there to tell me various bits of news and occasionally ask my advice or opinion. They all seem to be doing very well and continuing to offer excellent care to their patients. I regularly find myself saying “I'm just so proud of them!”

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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



when messages come in explaining a particular patient problem and outlining the steps they have taken to help and there's really nothing I need to add to what they've done. Please do keep praying for the teams I have left behind.

Health-wise I seem to be doing so much better! It is a little frustrating that no formal diagnosis for my problems has been found despite lots of blood tests and appointments. Despite the lack of a diagnosis, I have been very disciplined about getting rest, gradually increasing my exercise and trying to eat healthily and I seem to have more energy at last. For quite a while now I have been able to walk pretty

much as far and as fast as I need to without chest pain or being short of breath. Some of the other strange symptoms seem to have settled down too. Hallelujah! Thanks to all those who have been praying for this. I still need to test myself walking up hills and at altitudes higher than sea-level and I find I'm actually looking forward to doing this in the coming weeks.

Plans for my next assignment (adventure?!) are beginning to develop through a series of meetings, discussions and emails, but it's probably too early to share anything just yet. As soon as things are a bit more certain, I will definitely be in touch to share details of the new destination with you. I'm excited about what might be coming next, but please pray that I will make wise decisions and spot the God-opportunities when they arise.

Christmas is almost upon us! I am so excited about Christmas this year because, as I may have mentioned in previous letters, there's not much build up to Christmas in Kisoro and I've missed all the fun of Christmas lights and carol services and such like... not to mention the delights of Christmas food! I'm hoping to be in Plymouth with my St Andrew's church family over Christmas. Plymouth people, get in touch if you'd like to catch up! In January, I am planning a trip to South Africa to see my mum, brother and extended family, who I haven't seen for over a year, and I am really looking forward to that too. It will be great to see them and have a bit of a holiday after my studies as well as getting away from the cold weather in England in January.

I hope that you all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas! Thank you for all your prayers and support over the past year. I am grateful for each one of you!

Love to you all,

Nicci



*Photos from top to bottom: Liverpool's famous Liver Building; the Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool; A view across Liverpool docks; Autumn colours in Sefton Park, Liverpool.*



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