



Sarah and Simon Cawdell

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Location: Uganda



What we do: Coming alongside local Christians, helping them to grow in their faith, teaching theology to local leaders and building sustainability.



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear friends,

Usually one writes thank you letters after Christmas, but this one is coming to you in Advent with our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing prayers and support. We have been very encouraged in the last quarter by the way in which God has answered our prayers and the way that you have also responded to our needs.

God has given us the use of a very well-kept car for the rest of our time here. This has made life a lot easier, as well as giving us more opportunities to help friends and colleagues with lifts here and there. We are also grateful for funds to build a good storage facility so that we can keep it safely.

God has moved the Korean church to give us another building and in October they built us a new computer facility, which will be handed over to the college fully painted and ready to use at the start of December. They have extended the paint to cover the dormitory iron sheets, which will significantly prolong their life and protect the new ceilings. We are very, very grateful for this provision.

Some of you responded very quickly to our cry for help for the lay readers, and we and they are very grateful. We have enjoyed training the lay readers this semester, and they go back to their churches equipped with more biblical knowledge and further training in taking services. They have also had some training in mission, church planting and discipleship and other necessities of church life such as accounting, basic computing and stewardship. In the next week or so as they revise for their exams they are going to help the college by making bricks for the new classrooms. This will be a new skill set for us to learn as well. I will send photos next time.

Simon has been working hard on the diocesan land. Another mission agency – Texans and Ugandans on Mission – is helping by providing a borehole on the land which will allow development of the poultry project and a farm manager’s house in due course. (Very important to have someone living on the land for security reasons, as some of you are well aware.) The coffee and cocoa are well weeded and hopefully will survive the dry season of December and January. At the beginning of December Simon and others will be harvesting maize and soya again. We are using PICS bags for storage which means that the harvest can be kept insect



Canon Willy Akena

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With Jesus
With each other
To the edges

free until the price goes up a bit. Simon is also working with others to prepare a coffee mother garden where young plants can be grown until they are mature enough to plant out.

Please continue to pray for the process of registration. The National Council is meeting in November and by January we might be informed of the results of our application. Students for ordination return from 6 January and we hope to be able to bring good news this term. Our third-year students will be finishing in April. Please pray for them as they plan for their ordinations and are posted to new parishes.

Pray for Simon as he works with the diocese to prepare a budget for next year and as he continues to work with others to develop the diocesan land so that it provides a steady income. Pray for those who have joined the diocesan coffee cooperative, that they work well and effectively and that seedlings are provided for the project. We have had promises of seedlings from various sources but no provision as yet. About 1,000 acres have been identified across the diocese for growing coffee as part of the cooperative.

Please continue to pray for our colleagues here:

- ▶ Rev Zachariah's mission office was broken into and his computers (laptop and desktop) stolen – with the inevitable loss of resources and lesson notes and Rooted in Jesus translation work;
- ▶ the bishop is very busy with demands on all sides;
- ▶ Canon Willy Akena, principal of our sister college in the diocese, Archbishop Janani Luwum Vocational Training Centre, where young people are trained in practical skills;
- ▶ Rev Geoffrey Opiyo, who is heading up the Rooted in Jesus developments in the diocese.

Help us to know how to pray for you.

God bless you and give you a blessed Advent and joyful Christmastide. May we all know his peace and sustaining love as we celebrate the coming of Jesus among us.

Thank you. Love and prayers,

Sarah and Simon



Photos from top to bottom: Geoffrey Opiyo enjoying a new book; Rev Zachariah Otto



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

We've been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around our wider area of work. In South Sudan, communities have taken steps towards peace as pastors from different tribal groups reconciled, and my colleague Joan has shared a growing vision of a new tribe of peacemakers. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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