



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,

Greetings from Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College and the Diocese of Northern Uganda.

To our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank God every day for your prayers and support for us. We are privileged to be part of the chain of God's love stretching around the world. As I write I have just finished praying at the end of Kairos, a conference on mission given by colleagues from Emmanuel International to students of the college and pastors and ministers from across the city. About 50 people have been gathering this week to learn about seizing God's moment to take the gospel to those who have never heard of Jesus. We don't have to go far to find them: those in our shops from other cultures; in the refugee camps in town and around from Sudan and South Sudan, visitors from other nations here in Gulu. The students have their certificates, and more importantly a new enthusiasm for mission in their hearts. (Did you know that the word enthusiasm could mean "engodded"? It may be from the Greek en theos, meaning to have a new infusion of God in one's inner being.)

On the diocesan farm Simon works with members of the local community earning much-needed funds by digging holes for the coffee plants which we hope to receive from Operation Wealth Creation (a Ugandan government agency) and preparing the coffee mother garden where new seedlings will be produced over the next four or five years. We are coming to the end of the dry season, and as I write we are enjoying a really nice and welcome prolonged shower which might do more than wet the surface of the earth. (I know that many of you will be struggling with too much rain as you try to plant crops.) This rain allows us to plant beans, maize and groundnuts along with some cabbage and tomatoes.

For the last couple of months I have been amazed to watch the mangoes swelling on the trees. In this dry season the deeply rooted tree finds water from underground and channels it to the fruit so that it ripens early in May. An extraordinary image of needing to be deeply rooted in Christ if we are to benefit from the living water in times of dryness. On that same note some of you will have already seen on Facebook the new borehole which was drilled on the diocesan land for the coffee plantation. Texans and Ugandans in Mission camped on site for three days as they drilled down 63 metres through two other layers of water to tap into a small ocean



Kairos participants March 2025

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



underneath our feet. We pray that funds from Operation Wealth Creation will allow this borehole to be powered by a solar driven motor so that the water can sustain the coffee through the next dry season.

Of course you will want to know about the registration of the college. And so do we! Apparently the National Council for Higher Education will meet this month and consider our case! If we are registered we will take on new students in May and work to a new curriculum which includes modules on business development and modern agricultural methods – a reminder that priests here have to grow their own food or run a business in order to provide for themselves and their families. Forty percent of our current students haven't been able to pay their college fees: many struggle even to pay the school fees for their children. We are very grateful for

a donation which allowed us to pay for the students to get transport to Arua for their exams from 4–14 April. We pray that this will be the last time that they have to make that journey.

We have very much enjoyed receiving visitors this term, notably Deborah and Bishop Richard Jackson of Hereford diocese, who joined us for eight days as part of their sabbatical. Fellowship with friends is always pleasant, and as we show people around the diocese, we make new discoveries ourselves. Thank you for visiting. Our next visitor is Margaret Ford, a former CMS mission partner, and secretary to Archbishop Janani Luwum while in Gulu. We are very excited for her visit and plan to use the occasion to break the land for the new classroom block in the college. We hope that the foundations will be laid by Easter, and that all that is needed will be provided for the building to be completed.

The students will be on holiday after exams until 8 May. Simon and I hope to visit Jinja after Easter and to see the source of the Nile while having a couple of days' rest and recreation.

For those who follow our animal life the pigs are doing well: at present we have nine weaners ready to sell on and eight piglets still with their mothers. A couple of the sows are now expecting for the second time. We had an interesting incident recently: a feral pig invaded the living quarters and attacked a boar. After trying and failing to find the owner, the college enjoyed some tasty pork and sold the rest to defray the cost of mending the pigsty. We have a good collection of growing chicks and the cat is nursing four kittens. These young things give us pleasure and amusement.

We are grateful for God's faithfulness and provision for all our needs and for the college and diocese. Pray for us to have patience and grace to live with the waiting.

We continue to pray for you that you live in the knowledge of God's grace and peace.

Love and blessings,

Simon and Sarah



Photos from top to bottom: Cleaning the pipes of the new borehole; test pumping the new borehole; working to mark out the new coffee mother garden; after chapel with (L to R) Odong Ronald, Bishop Richard, Deborah, Susan Akello and Ocwera Innocent



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 Ukraine, families are being assured they are not alone amid the hardship of war, and our colleagues in Paraguay have seen a young man overcome challenges to learn academically and spiritually. 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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