



Sarah and Simon Cawdell

Link Letter no. 3 | August 2023

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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.

Dear friends and supporters,

Thank you for your prayers and goodwill. It takes time to make friends in a new place, and we are glad of our contact with friends new and old who encourage us. We are getting to know people here, and appreciate the welcome we have received.

We are glad to be nicely settled here in the college campus, having moved into our permanent home at the end of May. We inherited a rather noisy cockerel, who made a lovely supper in the second week. (Half-past one in the morning was just too early!) The very next day we were presented with a gift of a somewhat younger and quieter specimen, who was grudgingly accepted by the seven hens. It was a gift from a grateful student. The chickens make a colourful addition to the compound, and keep company with the tortoise and the cat.

The house is a very efficient one-bedroom bungalow with an open-plan kitchen/living space and a bathroom with hot water from a solar tank on the roof (real luxury). We also have solar panels for electricity which helps when the power goes off. We are kept secure by a good fence and a gate which we lock at night.

In our last letter we were wondering what to plant in the garden outside the compound. We settled for beans, maize and sweet potatoes, with a small nursery bed for carrot and beetroot. The first roots died, as the rains stopped just after they had got going and regular watering wasn't enough to sustain the roots in the sunshine. However the second planting was more successful. We have harvested the first beans and really felt the effects of climate change; we planted two kilos of beans and harvested a bit more than 1.5 kilos. A late burst of rain just as they were ready to harvest meant that many rotted in the pods. This isn't serious for us, but is real evidence of the effects of unpredictable weather, which, we understand, is becoming normal in the UK as well as in Uganda. The maize has suffered too, but we are eating the first fruits. On the college land we planted an acre of maize and beans which has had to be dug out and planted again because of the rains coming and going. This is costly in seed and labour, and in such conditions the price of basic foodstuffs also increases. Another form of a cost of living crisis!

Our own sweet potatoes are coming on more slowly. I have been weeding them today. Weeds don't seem to mind the unpredictable weather!



Samson and Ronald putting up a ceiling to make a student common room out of a store room.

Support Sarah and Simon Cawdell:
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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Simon has developed good working relationships within the diocese, especially with Otto Zachariah, the diocesan mission coordinator. Together they are touring the archdeaconries of the diocese (three parishes make an archdeaconry) to introduce Rooted in Jesus and prepare churches for the Rooted in Jesus training conference planned for February 2024. Simon has also introduced the course to the college tutors and we had a lovely week introducing the scheme to the students, who enjoyed the interactive and dramatic presentations of the ideas.

Sarah has been able, thanks to the generosity of donors, to make some progress with basic repairs to the college buildings. Some of the students are willing to lend a hand with putting up a new ceiling and repairing broken chairs, while expert labour was hired to repair the ladies bathing rooms.

The library books found in storage have been cleaned, sorted and put in the brand-spanking-new library building which was erected by the Korean Presbyterian church in 2022. Further work is needed to repair the leaking roof of the main lecture block and to give the kitchen a makeover.

Sarah was delighted to accompany one of the students to their local placement church about 5km away. She and Joseph set off on their bicycles at 8am to take the 9am service, which was held under a tree. The congregation of 50 or so sat on mats, and a few on chairs in the shade. Afterwards there was a fundraising event as the congregation works towards a permanent building for the church. (Sarah didn't like to tell them about the long-term implications of managing a building.) And then, after a light lunch in the home of the president of the Mothers' Union, a longer slog uphill home again in time for a cup of tea at 4.30pm. A truly wonderful Sunday.

We have found a home to worship at the nearest Anglican church, which is St Philip's Cathedral. We attend the English service at 9am and particularly enjoy the enthusiasm of the children and young people who attend.

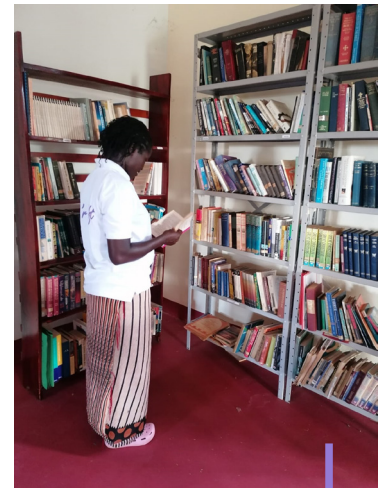
We were delighted to fly back to England for a week in order to attend our son James's ordination in York Minster on 1 July. We were glad to see something of his new parish and home as well as enjoy time with our daughters. It was also an opportunity to bring back some more books for the library and a few bits and pieces for our kitchen here.

Please continue to pray for us as we also pray for you.

- ▶ Pray that we have wisdom as we develop relationships and assess the priorities for our work here.
- ▶ Please pray for Sarah as she battles with the bureaucracy necessary to register the college with the National Board for Higher Education. This is by no means straightforward.
- ▶ Pray for the college also as we prepare for a lay readers' training course from September to December while the students are on placement in their home parishes.
- ▶ Please continue to pray for Simon as the Rooted in Jesus course is translated into Acholi and as he begins to assess the direction for the economic development side of his role in the diocese.

We are always glad to have news from our link churches, and to hear about the mission of the church in England.

Sarah and Simon



Photos from top to bottom: Simon and Canon Willy Akena demonstrating Rooted in Jesus to the students; Spesioza appreciating the books of the library



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