



# 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.

Dear friends,

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

We pray for you a joyful Eastertide with a wonderful celebration of the resurrection.

We have just completed our first year in post and look back with tremendous thanksgiving and wonder on all that God has done in the last 12 months.

We continue to thank God that we are in good health here, have plenty to eat and a good house to live in. It is the height of the dry season now and we are just running out of water in the house. Of course, it is easy to walk over to the bore hole to pump water and carry it the short distance home, and we rejoice to have the reminder of the immense privilege of piped running water in the house, as well as relatively reliable electricity and the blessings of a fridge.

Since we last wrote to you Simon has run a very successful Rooted in Jesus conference and seen a number of these discipleship groups set up around the diocese. After Easter he plans a road show with the mission coordinator Rev Zachariah Otto and the new Rooted in Jesus overseer Rev Opiyo Geoffrey to encourage the development of the groups.

Alongside this he has begun to concentrate on diocesan development projects in order to bring some money-making enterprises onto the diocesan land so that there will be funds for future church growth, and as an example to church members. Plans are to grow some coffee, which comes with a shade crop of bananas, and some trees for long-term investment. This is at the heart of a drive by the bishop to reduce poverty across the diocese, where parishioners will also be encouraged to plant coffee, as seedlings are available from the government at a reduced price.

The bureaucracy of the registration of the college continues to trouble Sarah and require too much attention. Unfortunately the fireproof ceilings which we commissioned in the men's dormitories were not as well made as we hoped and they are having to be strengthened by dividing the dormitories into four rooms each. This will have the advantage of providing some privacy for the students, but has proved expensive in the



*Mama Florence with aubergines/eggplants*

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To the edges**



short term. There are still some complicated pieces of paperwork still to be negotiated, though nothing prohibitive.

The pigs still require ongoing investment as they grow to maturity, but we hope that by June the ladies will be introduced to the gentlemen and the investment will begin to be fruitful. One of the students has begun to work alongside Morris, the pig man, so that he can learn the skill for application in his home parish.

Sarah has very much enjoyed teaching Theology and the Pauline Epistles this term, and feels sometimes that she learns as much as she teaches as the students are provoked to apply their knowledge to the local situations. She has particularly enjoyed teaching Theological Reflection, which brings stories from Scripture to bear on local situations. For example in a land dispute in one of the parishes it was very helpful to compare the actions of Abraham and Lot, where the good relationships within the wider family were preserved when the pressure on land became overwhelming.

College is also very grateful for the donations of the laptops, which are now coming over one or two at a time with visitors. Three have arrived so far, with the expectation of four more in April and more throughout the year. We praise God for the provision. One of the chief criticisms in the registration was the lack of computers: you see how God provides for us at the right time.

Simon was given a cocoa pod and we are excited that out of 42 seeds, two have germinated and are putting on growth. Obviously this is not an easy crop to grow. More successful has been the growth of our own loafahs, useful for bathing and for washing up. We have managed to keep the Swiss chard going all through the dry season by daily watering. Two of the students, Melki and Samson, were sent on a local Farming God's Way conference – do look at their website on <https://farming-gods-way.org> – and have come back enthusiastic about mulch, compost, less digging and getting the spacing of plants just right. Melki's tomatoes, started early close to the borehole, promise a good return on the investment!

Please continue to pray for us: Pray for Simon to make wise decisions as he works with Rev Caroline Aber, and Odong Kenneth in the development projects, and for his work in discipleship alongside Rev Opiyo Geoffrey as he works with the new Rooted in Jesus groups.

Pray for the college, and for Sarah to have wisdom and patience to go on with the registration process, and for the students as they take exams and have a break. Term ends in the middle of April and restarts after the national census on 10 May.

God bless you in your ministry of the gospel where you are. Please keep us up to date with your prayer requests and your news.

Love and blessings

Sarah and Simon



*Photos from top to bottom: Caroline Aber inspects coffee; some students on the new laptops; a mother and baby elephant*



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