

January 27 2026

Dear friends,

Thank you for your Prayers and support, especially over the Festive season. We were blessed to be able to share our Christmas meal with various local visitors which gave some Christmas cheer. A walk at Baker's Fort on Boxing Day gave us some exercise, and a feeling of the 'normal routine' though we missed our family around us of course.

Now the term has re-started and the farm work is well under way. This is the dry season, and the temperature has steadily increased, abetted by a hot dry wind through most days, so that our grass is crunchy, and the trees are losing their leaves. Students are kept busy tidying the compound.

The country has been through General elections and here in Gulu there is relief that the President has been re-elected. In this part of the world the elections were very peaceful, and contrary to views from Kampala we have seen expressed the vote itself appears to have been carried out well here. Some local MPs lost their seats, including from the ruling party. In the local elections a week later all the city administration was voted out, and new officers are starting work. Time will tell with regard to their effectiveness, but we pray that they make an honest and community minded start.

Voting has been on Thursdays, and the students have been allowed home to vote which means in effect a four day weekend, and quite disrupted teaching patterns, but we are settling down into a routine this week, and glad to be gathering for morning worship and continuing in the classroom. These students have been at home practising their learning since August, so it will take time for them to pick up the learning routine again.

The new Principal now visits us for the first part of each week to begin to teach, and to learn how the college functions. He is fortunate to have this period of handover. Thank you to those of you who have begun to contribute to his salary. We have committed to supporting him for the next three years, as the college hasn't the capacity to fund a Principal at the moment. By putting in place the plans for diversification we hope that over the next three years Dr Denis can build up the student numbers sufficiently to fund his salary and the general running of the college after that. We are planning for a Diploma in Primary School Education with Ndejje University and our own Diploma in Business studies and in Social work. Sarah is negotiating with the relevant government department during this semester.

Simon is delighted that the shade greenhouse is being put up this week. The coffee is doing very well with regular irrigation, and some plants are even in flower. Please pray as he puts together the plans for the farmhouse, chicken project and drying room so that the whole project can be ready for the next season, and someone can live on the land, and manage the various aspects. It will be lovely to see the land begin to yield its fruit

and bring an income stream into the diocese. Certainly the working habits of the local community, and their agricultural aspirations have been uplifted by the project. We have just received the translation of the final main book of Rooted in Jesus, so that should be available before we leave.

We come back to England in the middle of April and look forward to seeing many of you over the next six months of deputation work with CMS and in friendly visits. We are looking for work in the Church of England, and ask for your prayers as we discern the way forward together.

Sarah has been invited to speak at two local churches recently, and very much enjoyed visiting a small church which is meeting in a school classroom a couple of miles out of the city, and working hard to put up their own church building. It is lovely to meet local congregations and understand more of the rural church here, having had some rural experience in Shropshire.

We were delighted to have a visit from our youngest and her fiancée early February and on the way back from seeing them off called in at the new home of a former student who has just started his clergy ministry in Packwach, on the River Nile. In the parish they have to be careful going to the river to collect water, because of the resident hippopotamus! It is a real delight to see students growing into their ministry and applying what they have learnt here. Pray for these young ministers as they adapt to parish life.

Please continue to keep us in touch with your prayer news.

Love and blessings

Sarah and Simon