

The Diocese of
Northern Uganda

St John's Parish Church

Women's Development
Initiative

GLOBAL MISSION

8th August 2024



Gospel Sustainability for Community Transformation

This summer St. John's Parish Church sent
a team of three women and two teenage girls with a simple message:
Those who look to [Jesus] are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.
Psalm 34:5



Women need a safe place to share their burdens.

Radiance Women's Leadership Conference

The burden of shame is crippling in a place traumatized by war where 95 % of all women have experienced physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15. (See [Uganda Statistics Bureau GBV Study 2021](#).)

In response, St. John's Parish Church sent a team--myself, Lori Moore, Dr. Charlotte Crosland with daughter Townsend, Joy Avera from The Church of the Resurrection, and my niece, Evie Turner from Seacoast. We went to encourage the women's ministry leaders, clergy spouses, and children of Northern Uganda by proclaiming how

through the Biblical story of Creation, the Fall, and Christ's Redemption, we no longer have to hide in our shame because Jesus took it for us on the cross thereby working to redeem and restore our radiance lost.

After connecting with the women through our own stories of Christ's work to heal us from shame and rebuild our lives through the generations upon the truths of the gospel, the women shared their stories with one another through art depicted as jars of clay. Then, as it always happens on mission, we too were touched, healed, and transformed!



One woman thanked us, "You have given me time from hoeing in the garden to hear God's word!"

Read more about how the mission initiatives of a war-torn diocese deploy gospel sustainability for the transformation of generations to rebuild their community.

Janani Luwum
Theological College

Janani Luwum
Vocational Training
Institute

St. Phillip's Medical
Center

Awoo Women's
Development
Center



Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College

On a rainy day in Gulu, the Rev. Simon Cawdell prepares to harvest sunflowers for the production of cooking oil. The sunflower harvest is among crops being tested for cultivation on diocesan land to help cover expenses and invest in the growth of the school. Simon, a CMS missionary works for the Diocese of Northern Uganda with his wife, the Rev. Sarah Cawdell, who serves as the school's principal. By encouraging the students and faculty to plan beyond their subsistence crops of maize, beans, and vegetables, Simon applies his background in finance to help create income generating initiatives. Recently, he applied for a grant through ARDF for cocoa and coffee production.

Pray for God's wisdom and provision as the diocese navigates the challenge of commercial farming without the needed mechanization to make it truly viable.

Since their arrival 2 1/2 years ago, Reverend Sarah has been working on repairing buildings and navigating the complex registration process for the school which lapsed during the pandemic. Finally, as of a week ago, the education ministers came to inspect the college. (See the new additions to the campus above: a library with study space and the interior of St. John's Chapel given by a Presbyterian Church from South Korea. We used the chapel space for our women's conferences while there). As a result of their feedback, Sarah used a contribution from St. John's to purchase more chairs. They also need to add office space for the teachers.

Please pray for Sarah as she works on next steps toward registration: writing curricula while raising funds to add a salaried librarian with housing and teacher office spaces.



The Reverends Sarah
& Simon Cawdell

Prayer Needs

- **Fundraising:**
toward the printing of a first hand account of Archbishop Janani Luwum's martyrdom in 1977. So far 50 books, written by Margaret Ford his former secretary, have been printed.
- **Fruitful harvests:**
spiritually, among lay reader students and teachers and
agriculturally, the next crop heading to market is soya; then cocoa and coffee (in three years)
- **Finish:**
the school's registration process

Archbishop Janani Luwum Vocational Training Institute

The National Department of Education head says that the VTI is a model vocational center for all of Uganda.



Willy's humor comes through the story of imitating his boy huffing and puffing in the garden.

Canon Willy's 5 H's of Transformation

Head

Deal with mindsets, worldviews, perceptions, and attitudes of young people and communities in war-torn Northern Uganda

Heart

Spiritual and Character Formation

Hands

Skills development for work and service to earn a living

Home

Emphasis on personal and family-financial, economic, and spiritual transformation

Help

Community Support and Engagement for community transformation



Matooke Bananas



Townsend & E vie in the Metal Shop



Brick Inspection





St. Phillip's Cathedral
Health Center

Dr. Nic and his wife Tessa moved to Northern Uganda one year after he graduated from medical school. They live in a mud hut among Ugandan neighbors and are making a lasting difference in the area. Spending most of his time on administration, Nic has replicated his self-sustaining health center model in 43 locations throughout the diocese and beyond. Additionally, he's managed to keep health care costs for patients affordable. For example, an X-Ray from the new machine (see above) costs \$13. US dollars.

Pray for God to send another called and qualified long-term physician as an addition to St. Phillip's Staff.



St. Phillip's Cathedral
My Father's House & Family

Gloria (see picture below) and her team oversee the program for some of the orphaned children and youth in Northern Uganda with two of them from South Sudan. It's amazing to see how much they all love and support one another as they work together in planting and harvesting crops for food. Beyond working to establish the self-sustainability of the home, students are encouraged in entrepreneurial endeavors as raising pigeons, cultivating cash crops, and receiving technical training. One student we met shared her essay on how God has given her a voice and plans to study journalism. Gloria and the kids send their thanks and greetings to the St. John's Thursday Morning Men's Group who support My Father's Family and the Chain Foundation.



Women's Development Center of Awoo



Here the girls take a moment from their vocational studies to exercise and have fun dancing.

A Mission of The Mothers Union

In Awoo, a remote village of Northern Uganda, common cultural practice dictates that girls marry between the ages of 12 - 18. As a result, the few fortunate enough to have been able to attend school cannot complete their educations. Through the new Women's Development Center, the Mother's Union seeks to offer a step out of the gender-based discrimination, abuse, and poverty cycle by providing a place for the girls to receive vocational training as seamstresses and hairstylists.

With the help of the local church's donation of land for classrooms and subsistence farming and St. John's support through scholarships and gifts, the girls now have a small, makeshift dormitory and regularly paid teachers.

Please pray for God's provision for a nursery school and teachers so that the girl's children may have a place to learn.

(In the picture above) After Townsend and Evie shared stories of Christ's work in their lives, we enjoyed celebrating God's goodness with song, dance, and a meal together.



The young girl above received one of ten scholarships given by St. John's this year.



Both Townsend and Evie say that they had something other planned than what they actually shared with the girls. However, when they opened their mouths, the Holy Spirit intervened as through tears, each spoke forth her story.

Townsend empathized with the girls as she talked about the pain of going through depression but also rejoiced in how God is bringing her through it. Evie confessed her struggle with pride and unbelief but how God had opened her eyes and heart to Christ's real presence through His people in Uganda on this trip.