



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 self-sufficiency.

Dear friends and supporters,

Firstly, many thanks for all your encouragement since we left Bridgnorth and started at CMS in Oxford at the start of September.

We have enjoyed nearly four months living at the CMS community house in Iffley Road, Oxford and very much appreciated all that the CMS office has to offer in terms of training, library, fellowship and management. Behind every mission partner is a great team of finance, communications, technical and international experts to ensure the smooth outcome of our hopes to serve God together. We have enjoyed input from trainers all over the world

thanks to Zoom. We have been coached in practical needs, possible approaches and programmes and most importantly to ensure that all that we do is specific to the context in which we will be working.

Living in the community house has been educational in itself as we have shared national foods, e.g. toad in the hole and roast beef (UK), chicken and beans and rice (Brazilian), household chores and of course the World Cup! We have eaten together each evening and shared in one another's hopes and prayers as we have prepared to follow God's call to Uganda (in our case), Kenya and Brazil (for our fellow trainees). It has been a great encouragement to hear each other's testimonies and the ways in which we have each been called from our very diverse backgrounds.

Now it is the end of term and we are preparing to spend Christmas with the family at Lizzie (our second-born) and Jack's new home in Mansfield, north of Nottingham. It will be lovely to be able to concentrate on being family together. In July our son James will be ordained in York diocese so this Christmas without church engagements will be a one-off in our family history.

Thanks to your support and prayers CMS have agreed that, paperwork permitting, we can aim to leave



End of term Christmas celebration at Iffley Road. From left: Rosie Bayford, Efraim Vilella, Simon Cawdell, Evangeline, Noemi, Isabella and Marcio Ciechanovicz, a mysterious visitor, Stu Bayford, Giovanni and Nathanael Ciechanovicz, Aaron Stanbury, Ruth Vilella

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



the UK in early March and start work in Gulu, northern Uganda from that time. Of course the first six months will be more occupied with learning than with working, but we are excited about getting to know our colleagues both in Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College (AJLTC) and in the Diocese of Northern Uganda (DNU).

Sarah was thrilled to be able to visit Kabale in south Uganda for a week at the beginning of December and take part in a training conference for theological educators across Uganda. She also got to meet the staff of Uganda Christian University with whom AJLTC is affiliated, and to learn from Dick and Caroline Seed, mission partners specialising in theological education who are based in South Africa. It was a great time to

make connections, to explore adult theological education and to start getting to grips with the curriculum for ordination training that will be undertaken in the college where Sarah will be principal.

Simon has been in touch with Bishop Godfrey of DNU and is already coordinating with Mathetes Trust to enable the Rooted in Jesus discipleship course to be translated into Acholi. The course already has an established profile in the Province of Uganda and across Africa, and Bishop Godfrey hopes it will be a vehicle for furthering Christian commitment in the churches of the diocese.

Over the next two months, when not applying for visas and work permits and working out how to pack, we are looking forward to visiting supporting churches and sharing with our supporters more about northern Uganda and the communities to which we will be going. Otherwise both of us will be present in CMS House, working with the CMS librarian here in Oxford in order to reorder the library.

We will be praying for you, as you pray for us. May God bless you with a New Year lived in the peace of Christ.

Love and blessings,

Sarah and Simon



Photos from top to bottom: Mission partners in training: Stu Bayford, Colin Smith (course tutor), Rosie Bayford, Aaron Stanbury, Simon Cawdell, Noemi and Marcio Ciechanovicz; Sarah with conference participants from across Uganda



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