

Dear friends,

Praise God.

We hope that you are well, and surviving the autumn damp. It is pouring with rain here – one of those steady rains that will last the day. There is no shortage of water at the moment, which I think you could probably echo.

Thank you for your prayers and support here, we survive by God's grace and goodness. Not that any adventures have been out of the ordinary, but we have travelled a lot this month, and are very aware of all that could have gone wrong and didn't. The family wedding in York was all that could have been hoped for, and more. The storms made travelling hard for some family on both sides, but by 12.30 on Saturday everyone was present to witness and to celebrate. James and Chenaiyi had worked hard to make a wonderful day and we were delighted by the way the family worked together to support the occasion.



James and Chenaiyi

We got back to Gulu on Saturday for a late lunch, and then Sarah left on Sunday night to travel to Jinja for a week of excellent training in how to teach theology. Theological trainers from all around the country gathered in a very nice hotel near Lake Victoria to benefit from the final part of this training, and to strengthen networks. We were very grateful to Dick and Caroline Seed from South Africa for their expertise. Sarah was also very pleased to meet with a member of the National Council for Higher Education and develop the application a little further. Now she only has to raise the funds (15 – 20 million shillings) to put in and process the application. There are only three pieces of paperwork to rewrite, so she feels the end might be in sight.

Simon is praising God that he has received pledges for full funding for the Rooted in Jesus conference in January. This is a great relief, and we are grateful. He has also finished the review of the present five year diocesan plan, and is standing ready to work with Diocesan Staff on putting together the plan for the next five years, and work on a number of issues to enable the diocese to be more self sustaining.



Piggery awaiting pigs

In the college it has been a season of building. The chapel foundations are built, and the walls are going up. You will remember that this has been the gift of the Korean church. Others of you have supported the rebuilding of the piggery, which is now complete, and awaits the arrival of young pigs once we have appointed a pig man, and organised the food supply. We very much hope that in time this will provide much needed funds for the college. Now that we have used up the supplies which the students brought with them our food bill is something over 1 million shillings a week which is not matched by the fees, because most of the students whilst they could bring foodstuffs, couldn't bring all their fees when they came. We survive by the grace of God and the kindness of God's church.

The lay readers have exams at the end of the month and go home on December 4th. It has been a pleasure to get to know some of them: Peter, the chapel 'minister', who helped out by weeding our garden whilst we were away, and Dickens, the course leader who regularly translates for me in chapel services, and the half a dozen female students with whom Sarah can sit outside the dormitory, and chat at the end of the day occasionally. There are not so many women in leadership positions here, and these ladies tread a fine balance to keep their place without being overawed or over assertive.

Next week we are excited to have visitors from South Carolina, USA who have a long history with the college, and are revisiting for the first time since COVID. They will be staying in the Bishop's Guesthouse for a long weekend. We will be taking them to worship at Christchurch (a town centre church) on Sunday morning. The choir from there have just been competing in the East African choir competition in Tanzania, and came 6th out of thirty-eight entries. Simon's language teacher is part of that choir, and we have enjoyed going to their preparatory concerts leading up to the competition.

Peace and blessings to you all, Sarah and Simon



Working on the chapel