

From Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College, Diocese of Northern Uganda.

February 5th 2024

Dear friends,

Thank you for your love and prayers, particularly over the last week, as the Rooted in Jesus conference has been underway. The team of three, Alison, Roger and Hazel, arrived safely from England, each carrying ten kilos of books for the library, on the Sunday evening, oriented themselves on Monday and worked hard with the 240 delegates right through until Friday lunchtime.

The students from the college helped with translation and demonstrations, diocesan officers assisted and helped with mattresses and catering and other administrative issues, so that all in all the week went remarkable smoothly. Funds have been given to employ a local priest, Rev'd Opiyo Geoffrey, to follow up the delegates for the next three years, and encourage them as they start Rooted in Jesus groups in their parish churches. We give praise and thanks for all that has been done in God's name to help people grow in their faith.



Figure 1: Rooted in Jesus Conference



Figure 2: A moment of prayer

In the college the new term is well underway. In the third week of term the students enjoyed their week at the conference: eating good food, and enjoying a wider fellowship. They are back in the classroom again with fresh minds and enthusiasm. The semester ends on April 18th, with exams in the final two weeks.

Although the college is still working towards registration we very much hope that supervision from the college at Arua will allow the exams to happen here this time, rather than having to move the students over to Arua, which was very expensive and inconvenient last August. By contrast hosting supervisors from Arua from time to time is only moderately expensive, and we are glad to have the contact with another college. Please pray for us that the registration will move ahead swiftly.



Figure 3: Chapel Opening
the Evangelist.

The beauty of the college campus is now enhanced by the new chapel, donated by the Presbyterian Church of Korea. It has been a great source of delight to host the building team, and to see the chapel grow from ground-breaking to completion over the last four months. We were delighted with the dedication and opening of the chapel on January 26th. It is dedicated to St John

Some of the college buildings are looking much smarter now as the kitchen has been plastered, and has a store attached. The plastering should prolong the active life of the building, and the store means that food doesn't have to be kept in one of the classrooms, which was very unsatisfactory. The men's dormitories now have fire proof ceilings, which is another answer to prayer, and the bathrooms and latrines have doors. (the luxury of student life!)



If we take on new students in May, which we hope to do, as this is the point of change in the Academic year, and it would be good to have three years groups to keep the flow of students through the college, then we will need a new classroom. At the moment the new chapel has freed up one classroom which makes five, but we would need six in the long term. I hope that we can build a purpose built computer room, which would free up the present computer room as the sixth classroom. Obviously we need considerable funds for that building. We are also hoping to install water tanks for harvesting roof water. A recent

Figure 4: Kitchen with store

clear out of the room where the goats used to live unearthed some very nice guttering, so now we only need the water tanks and fitting costs for that project.

Prayers, then please for Simon as he moves into a greater focus on development work. Simon's brief is for discipleship and development. Up until now he has focussed on the Discipleship aspect, and do pray as he works with Opiyo to follow up the Rooted in Jesus conference. Now he will work more closely with the Household Development and Community Transformation Department to observe and encourage the development projects that the diocese is already involved in, such as bee keeping, educating communities in more effective farming techniques and health and hygiene. And prayers please for Sarah as she negotiates the political and financial matters of registration and building projects, as well as managing the college day to day.

Do keep us updated with news from your church so that we can pray for you also.

Love and blessings from

Sarah and Simon