

Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers. This is quite bland prayer letter in comparison with this morning. Let me sketch for you:

There was a storm last night. The roof of a neighbour's house blew onto the power line for the college, though our house has power.

So the man who is welding the poles to hold mosquito nets to the beds has carried the beds up here, and has used an extraordinary collection of cables (health and safety?) to connect the house electricity supply to the grinding machine and the welding machine.

But the person who is cutting iron bars from the windows at college has had to go home for the day, because the generator won't stretch to that degree of power.

And the mains water is off again, and the borehole overcrowded so the women who are cleaning the dormitories of cement dust etc are using our home rainwater supply (another couple of weeks before we get the college rainwater harvesting connected up)

And part of the boundary wall has fallen down onto Rev Jane's ground nut field, so we have to find and employ two young men to clear those bricks,

and the fallen wire had to be reported in person so David went off to do that and then we needed more maize for grinding

and the banana, avocado plantation has suffered in the storm,

and the pigs are undermining their food troughs, so we need to repair.

The drain for the men's bathing area seemed to have blocked again, but it was only that the users didn't know that they had to clear our new traps! Amos made easy money today!

But what I am actually doing today is writing a library collection policy, and the library users manual.

I am so glad that I learnt juggling skills at university - though that was more entertaining somehow!

Please laugh with us.

We are glad to be well, and not under attack. We pray for the people of Gaza, Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan.

Thank you for your love and laughter. God is faithful and keeps us in love.

From Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College and the Diocese of Northern Uganda.

Dear friends and prayer supporters,

Praise God. Thank you for your prayers and love and support. We thank God every time we remember you, and know that your continuing support is essential to our ongoing mission here. The joys and challenges are constant, but we do push on in wisdom and love because you stand before the throne of God with us. Thank you.

This time last year I, Sarah, was just settling into my first full semester as Principal, and now that I am starting the second full year of teaching from next week I am aware of how much I have learnt. This gives rise to a sense of vision and direction as I lead college community. Although the registration process is still the dominant drain on our energy and finances there are ways in which we can see developments in college life and begin to set a creative direction for the future. I submitted the revised paperwork for registration last week, and look for a response at least by the end of May. All through the last month masons have been at work upgrading the dormitories, the electrician has rewired, and the painter has decorated. I attach some pictures to show the progress. The windows are no longer burglar proof, but they can be used as emergency exits (priorities change with time), each room has been divided into four rooms so that the students have a little more privacy, the ventilation has been improved, and the fresh paint and repaired beds with poles attached to hang mosquito nets mean that the place looks as good as new.

On the educational front I have been able to employ two more part time staff to help us teach the new first years who should be arriving at the start of next week, along with the returning students. This brings our staff team up to twelve either full or part time.

The addition of first years means that we have three year groups – the full complement, and with three of the new diploma students coming from the Karamoja region in the north east, another diocese and language to add to the mix. I am sure that where we can work for unity and understanding across cultures that is part of the Holy Spirit's work and will strengthen the church. This semester I also hope to use the Discipleship Groups on a Tuesday afternoon to explore different ways of praying with the students, and work with them to demonstrate some of the rich resources of prayer in the historical and worldwide church: using the imagination to inhabit Scripture and Lectio Divina being the most obvious examples.

In the last month Simon has been working on the development side of his portfolio, using part of a generous donation to set up some income generating agricultural projects on diocesan land. The next hope is for a poultry project, for which he is currently writing a grant application, and the development of a farming centre on the land, so that the produce can be stored safely and effectively and someone can keep an eye on the chickens. He has really enjoyed working with the local community as they have worked with him on planting and weeding soya, maize, sunflowers, bananas and cocoa, and these have now gone through the process of 'first weeding.' The money we have been able to pay them for this work has enabled a lot of school fees to be paid amongst other things. The work also gives inroads for relationship building and the spread of the gospel in what is a poorer area of town. Please pray for the security and fruitfulness of these crops. As the land is a bit far from the Diocesan centre it is not well guarded.

I, Sarah, have been enjoying the Bible Project podcasts as I prepare lessons on the non -Pauline epistles for my new teaching this semester. If you haven't come across these study notes and podcasts you might like to have a look at the website. It even makes Leviticus interesting! Do keep us in touch with the work God is doing in your lives and churches, and we will continue to pray with you.

Love and blessings Simon and Sarah

