



CHRISTIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
UGANDA

Newsletter - December 2024



**“The Word became  
flesh and made his  
dwelling among us.  
We have seen his  
glory, the glory of  
the one and only  
Son, who came  
from the Father,  
full of grace and  
truth.”**

**John 1:14**

**Thank you Lord for  
sending your Son,  
Jesus**

**“Light of the World”**



## **A letter from our Chairman - Colin Townsend**

On behalf of our Christian Development Uganda trustees and our faithful team in Uganda, Word and Deed, may I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and our prayers for God's blessing for the year to come.

There has been much to thank God for over this past year. Thanks to faithful regular support from many of you and also generous giving in response to particular needs or special appeals, our funds have sustained the WADU ministry among the Batwa. Over 200 Batwa children are now supported and carefully monitored in 9 primary schools. The cost of this provision is substantial and it extends beyond school to whole family health and welfare support. It also gives WADU many opportunities to demonstrate and share the love of Jesus, beyond just the Batwa communities, but also to the larger communities. It is an encouragement to work with WADU as they try to find ways to improve the desperate living conditions of Batwa families.

Facing up to the challenge of providing better education for some of our Batwa youngsters at primary level, so that they have a chance to reach secondary level, has led to the Rising Stars sponsorship programme. I want to thank those of you who have willingly taken on one of these young people. You are making a huge difference to their lives and to the future of the needy communities from which they come. If you have not already done so please do consider whether you could undertake to support the education of a child in this way.

Our support for WADU's ministry to the Batwa has a cost. Our support base numbers nearly 300 people. The WADU ministry is entirely dependent on the support of Christian Development Uganda. We must cover all staff salaries and administration costs plus the whole financial burden of the day to day ministry. Currently for salary and administration and for ministry costs, we are sending substantially more than we receive each month. We are constantly amazed at the way in which the Lord has provided all that we have needed to date, but we are having to raid our reserves. I am asking you all to please consider your regular giving. We would love to know each month that we will receive what is needed to enable this valuable outreach to continue. If you are able to contribute to our regular giving, the donation details are given on the next page.

Thank you all so much.

In the name of our Lord Jesus  
Colin Townsend.



## How to give

You can give via our Stewardship account <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20036722>, or set up a standing order with your bank, or make a direct payment to our CAF bank account (Christian Development Uganda, Account number 00011431, Sort Code 40-52-40).

Please consider enabling us to collect Gift Aid on your donation if you are a UK taxpayer, using our Gift Aid form, obtainable on our website.

## A few highlights from recent months

We thank God for the continuing growth of the WADU mission among the Batwa. Here are a few photos of some recent highlights. Several are photos from the May/June visit by Colin and Sue Townsend, our chairman and secretary, plus Mike Peachey a long term trustee. They were joined by Catherine Atherstone, a year 6 teacher from Stanton Harcourt School and also by Abigail and David Felce with their two children Simeon and Miriam. Abigail heads up our Rising Stars sponsorship programme. We were able to visit all sponsored students, especially those attending Future Generations School where most of our Rising Stars are studying. A special photo, on the left, shows Simeon and Miriam meeting their young sponsored student and giving him a gift.



It was great too, with Catherine, to visit nearly all nine of the rural primary schools, which over 200 Batwa now attend, and to





interact in classes with the children, and especially to see the huge enjoyment by boys and girls alike, as Catherine taught netball skills (below). We had given WADU funds to enable provision of netball posts, albeit on very rudimentary pitches.



The Rising Stars primary students have been challenged by the regular



routines of their new school regime. It is such a huge difference from life in their villages and at the rural schools. We have been praying for WADU as they have worked hard visiting them and encouraging them, sharing with them the love of Jesus. A highlight was the wonderful end of term retreat (above) that WADU gave these Rising Stars at the end of term in August. The photos showing smiles on the children's faces as they enjoyed fun activities and fellowship with one another each day was lovely to see.

WADU continue to pray for wisdom as they seek to demonstrate the love of Jesus amongst these needy communities. It was great for the men of the visiting team to be able to join with local Batwa men and complete construction of two latrines (right) in two of the communities. It was great too



to receive a photo (left) showing how pleased many of the women were to receive knitted blankets and warm jumpers and hats, all knitted by many ladies here in the UK, and taken out by the visiting team.





It was not so great to see the dreadful conditions in which many are having to live. Whilst we rejoiced at the birth of the new baby boy on the left, and that WADU are able to help the mother, we and WADU remain challenged to know how to work with the Batwa to improve living conditions. Please join us in prayer.

*“This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him from all his troubles” Psalm 34 verse 6*

**Thank you** to many of you who responded when you heard of the great need of young Gilbert’s family. Gilbert is the young boy found last year wasting away with a severely broken leg. Many of you then helped us fund an operation to save both the leg and his life. WADU discovered Gilbert’s family living in particularly squalid conditions, (above) with his mother about to give birth again. Thanks to a generous response for many of you, WADU have been able to make simple repairs to



the home, such that it is dry and warmer, and baby John (above) has a chance to survive and thrive. WADU will also work with the grandmother to enable her home to accommodate Gilbert and his other siblings and help her cultivate her small plot of land to produce food supplies. Pray for God to grant wisdom to WADU as they constantly look

for ways in which they can be even handed in their interventions to help and encourage these communities make progress towards better living conditions.

## **Christmas:- a time for giving.**

### **Will you give a gift that can make a difference ?**



Giving someone a gift through our **Alternative Gift** scheme makes a huge difference to the ministry of WADU. All the gifts feed into a variety of essential interventions amongst the Batwa. Gifts of school equipment and school meals feed into the regular half term meals provision needed for the children at all nine rural schools, water purifiers are an essential provision to enable clean

drinking water, mattresses and blankets give warmth and comfort, livestock make such a valuable contribution to a family enabling some income generation and providing food. All the gifts in some way or another help resource this valuable ministry. Gifts of a local language or Good News Bible are also gladly received by our young folk and elders who are learning to be able to read God`s Word. We know many of you give some of these gifts at Christmas but please do consider using the gifts throughout the year.

You should all have received the Alternative Gift brochure and it can also be found on the home page and donation page of our website. Please note that this year the gift scheme is being administered through Mrs Jenny Insch.



## **A legacy can powerfully impact God`s work through Word and Deed Uganda**

**“Whoever gives to the poor, lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed” Proverbs 22;9**

This time last year our committed team at Word and Deed received a Christmas gift that they had not dared to expect. They knew that their ministry among many Batwa communities was hampered by constant need to hire often



unsuitable vehicles in order to access these vulnerable communities. For all the frequent planned visits a vehicle hire was necessary, and unplanned visits or emergencies, which happened often, always caused difficulty and sometimes could not happen. Our trustees began praying and fund



raising for a strong, reliable 4x4 vehicle. We knew we had a large sum to raise which we could not promise to achieve for months.

However the Lord knew of this need. Amazingly, many generous folk enabled us to raise nearly half our target by the end of last year. However God had provided another generous heart in one of our long term supporters. This lovely lady had died earlier in the year and God laid on her heart the needs of our communities in Uganda. Unexpectedly, our treasurer received a gift:- a legacy of almost exactly what was required to reach the total our trustees needed in order to instruct WADU to search for the right vehicle. Amazingly by Christmas the vehicle had been purchased. There was great rejoicing amongst our WADU team. They could reach all the communities for Christmas celebrations and giving of gifts last year. Throughout this year the vehicle has hugely aided the ministry:- transporting children to and from school, delivering half term supplies, enabling regular centre days and responding to emergencies such as the unexpected birth of a baby. The picture shows children at one of the schools greeting the vehicle and receiving their half term hygiene supplies. We are so thankful to the Lord for His wonderful provision. You too could be a part of this amazing story. WADU have a long term ministry challenge amongst these communities. They never know what need will arise next. Please would you consider leaving a gift to Christian Development Uganda in your will? Legacies can be such a huge help sustaining the finances needed for this ministry. Following, is helpful information from our treasurer:-

*We know that your loved ones come first and we are grateful to you for thinking of Christian Development Uganda.*

*Unless your will is properly drawn up and up to date it can lead to problems for your loved ones and you should consider using a solicitor. Your gift is probably best to be specified as a fixed sum.*

*If you decide to name us in your will then use our full name and address and registered charity number:-*

*Christian Development Uganda, Greenleas, Orchard Way, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3LN*

*Registered charity number 1011451.*

*It is not necessary that you inform us if you do include a legacy to Christian Development Uganda in your will.*

## **The Sponsorship Programme - Rising Stars**



It has been my privilege this year to oversee the Christian Development Uganda administration of the Word and Deed Uganda sponsorship programme. This has coincided with the development by WADU of the



Rising Stars programme, which is designed to give Batwa children a better quality of primary education than that which is offered in the rural primary schools and to encourage these students to continue into secondary education. The WADU staff have selected motivated and keen Batwa students who have displayed academic excellence. We currently have 20 students, and we pray that this number will grow in the future. Each Rising Star requires a sponsor to cover the school fees. The current programme also incorporates students who have been lovingly sponsored for the last few years, prior to the start of the 'Rising Stars Programme'. We are thankful to God that He has provided 20 generous-hearted sponsors for these children.

My husband, our two young children and I joined our chairman and secretary and two others on a visit to WADU in June this year. We were privileged to experience first-hand all the ministry of WADU, but in particular, I was able to meet all twenty of the Rising Stars. We drove to visit them in school and deliver gifts/letters from their sponsors. Nearly all of the primary students attend Future Generations Primary School. The school gave us a rousing welcome and a thorough tour. I was able to visit secondary school students, most of whom attend Rock High School.



Following the Rock High visit, we met one young lady, a mother and



wife and a former sponsored student, who is now running a sewing business, after successfully completing her tailoring and dressmaking courses at a trade college. Another student, who is currently sponsored, is completing his first year at the African School of Commerce and Technology, and

he is doing very well. We were able to meet him and deliver his gift from his faithful sponsor.

For our primary Rising Stars, the transition from their village life to the daily discipline of life at boarding school has proven to be an enormous



challenge, and many have found it difficult. Phiona and Stephen, from WADU, are faithful in their regular visits, care and oversight, and it is a tribute to this love and care that these students have successfully completed their year. We and WADU see the Rising Stars Programme as a very important part of the ministry to transform the Batwa communities. Please join us in prayer for wisdom for WADU and for all of these young students. They have just returned home for two long months for the

Christmas holidays. The WADU team will continue to check on the students at home regularly, delivering necessary materials, such as food and clothing, all of which they receive at boarding school, but lack at home. WADU staff also provide routine checks on the



families of these students, to be sure all members of the families are coping. Please pray that all



of the students will be encouraged to return to school for the new school year beginning in February. It is such a privilege to be a part of these children's lives. If you would be willing to support this programme, please get in touch with me. I would be very happy for the opportunity to answer

any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Rising Stars Programme. Thank you in advance for your prayers and consideration!

*Every Blessing,*

*Abigail*

We have raised an appeal on Stewardship for £700 to help WADU make some provision for the children during the long 2 month school holiday. If more is raised so much the better. Here is the link to cut and paste into your browser address bar at the top of its page, or, of course, just send a donation to the treasurer.

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/CDUgandachristmasappeal>





WADU have just sent these two photographs from end of term visits and celebrations.





## Come and see us!!

We would love to extend an invitation to you all to come see the ministry of WADU amongst the Batwa for yourselves. It can be a life changing experience. You will be amazed by the beauty of the scenery, overwhelmed by generous hospitality and a welcome from everyone you meet, and bowled over by the faithful commitment and hard work of the WADU team. Please consider a visit. Our chairman or secretary can advise and facilitate visits. Advice can be given for flights, where to stay, transport, itinerary etc. A trip is planned around end of July into August 2025 which folk are welcome to join. Visits are such a blessing to all concerned. Do please consider it.

Contact [secretary.cduganda@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cduganda@gmail.com)



To make a donation to Christian Development Uganda, please complete this form and send it with your name, address and cheque to:

**The Treasurer, Christian Development Uganda, Mr Mick Lloyd, Greenleas, Orchard Way, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3LN.**

If you prefer bank transfer, use "Christian Development Uganda", 40-52-40, Acc 00011431

I enclose a cheque for £.....

For general funds/specific purpose (specify).....

**I am a UK taxpayer and under the Gift Aid scheme, I would like the charity to claim back tax on all donations until further notice.**

Signed

Date

Website; <https://christiandevelopmentuganda.org.uk>

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