



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT UGANDA

Newsletter - September 2025

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1*



Benjamin (security)

Stephen

Marion

Ovia, with Joy
(receptionist)

Phiona

Precious

Thanks for this amazing, faithful team preaching and demonstrating the love of Jesus among the Batwa communities in southern Uganda. Pray for their protection and for their families. They are missionaries amongst their own people. God is using them to transform the lives of these communities. Please pray for them and help us support them.

A note from the chairman.

Welcome to the first official newsletter from us for some time. We feel the excellent regular reports from WADU themselves are generally sufficient.

Those of us who were privileged to visit WADU recently will have seen the astonishing work done and will realise the constant need for funds. If you are able to consider increasing your regular commitment to our general fund, we would be so thankful. Or maybe you, or a friend or family member might consider sponsorship. What an honour it is to know you are helping to educate a child. It was our privilege to spend time with many of these and see how the Lord is blessing each one of them.

Colin E Townsend

Home Updates

Celebration





A wonderful multi-anniversary celebration for Colin and Sue Townsend at St Ebbes Church, Oxford at the beginning of May saw a reunion of many friends connected with the ministry in Uganda, and raised just over £3000 for general funds, for which we give thanks

Two Supporting Schools

Remember the wonderful play equipment at Kinyarushengye. Children and staff at Stanton Harcourt primary school near Witney have now raised another £1800 to enable WADU to install more play equipment at another rural primary school attended by supported children. Several staff contributed towards the funds by being sponsored for the Oxford 10 k run. A huge thanks to them.



St Peters Primary school in Alverscot has also come on board to support our children. The picture shows one of two water purifiers we gave to two schools on our recent visit, gifted through funds the children have raised. This school has raised further funds which we hope will also provide some play materials for Rise and Shine School, attended by our sponsored students.

Dr Mike Dobson's Report - WADU; helping with medical needs

WADU isn't a medical mission. None of the team is medically trained, and they are fully occupied with their everyday normal work. But, in the course of their visits to Batwa communities they regularly come across individuals in need of help. One such person was Gilbert - who had lain untreated for 6 months with an infected, open leg fracture until the team rescued him and brought him for treatment. There is no doubt that they saved his life. On a previous visit we spent a day on basic triage - sorting out who's OK, who may need more detailed evaluation or review, and who needs immediate help and/or transportation.

This year the team want to do something to improve maternal health. Most Batwa women receive no antenatal care, and deliver their babies unassisted. If complications arise help is far away. During our visit, with the help of a Ugandan doctor friend, we were able to visit the 200 bed Bwindi community hospital, which serves the Batwa people on the west side of the forest. We had a lot of helpful conversations, and I hope that WADU now has some contacts they can use for clinical advice.

We also discussed some basic technology, and WADU would like to be able to supply a "Mama Kit" for every birth in the villages they visit. The Kit comprises simple essentials for a home birth, including soap, sterile gloves, a sterile blade to cut the cord and a piece of string to tie it, a large plastic sheet (the labouring mother is probably on the floor, not a bed) and some sterile dressings, and baby health charts. We added a supply of iron and vitamin tablets, and de-worming medicine to be taken in pregnancy, to improve maternal nutrition. All this in addition to the single most effective



Marion with sample kit

way of reducing maternal mortality, teaching the girls to read and write! Marion and Phiona have started to work on teaching Batwa women how to use the kit and medicines. The Mama Kits cost about £15-20 each (including the medicines) and we've suggested that they could be added to the CDU Alternative Giving catalogue. The team reckon they would need about 20 - 30 each year.

As usual it was a joy to work with them, to see their love for the Lord and the Batwa people expressed in practical ways.

Dr Mike Dobson

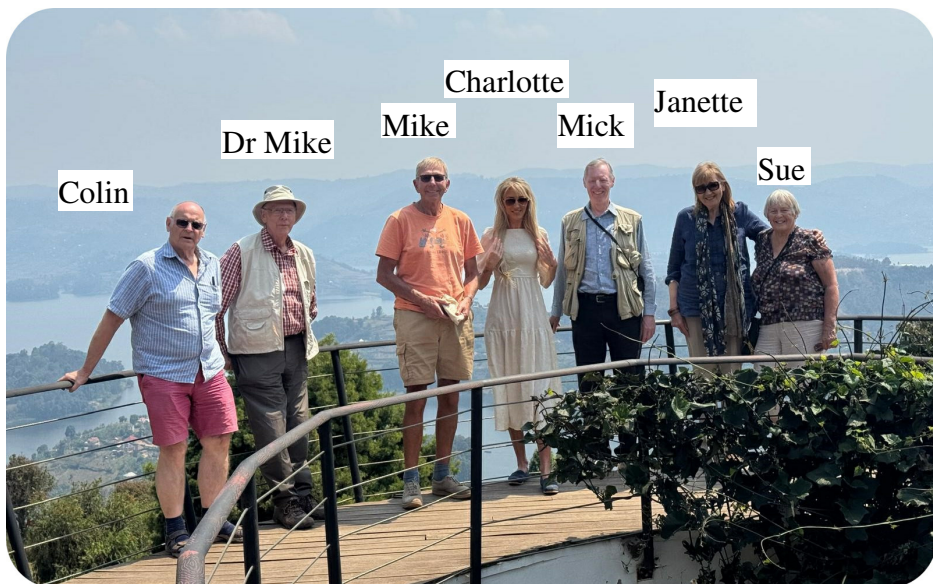
Reports from the recent visit to WADU, 27th July to 13th August 2025

The visiting party consisted of Colin and Sue Townsend, Mike Peachey, and Mick Lloyd, all of whom are trustees. Also travelling was Mick's wife and daughter, Janette and Charlotte. Travelling also, a little earlier, was Dr Mike Dobson.

1. God's amazing provision!

Having lost our original flights less than a week prior to travel, we were able to book six more! Then on arrival, driving from Entebbe airport, we were remarkably guided on our way by a mystery motor cyclist who appeared by our side and led us by side roads to the main route south, despite major traffic chaos caused by a presidential election cavalcade. Praise the Lord.

On the right, Janette, Charlotte and Mick at the equator.



2 Visits to the rural schools

Regular visits to all rural schools were due, for WADU delivery of half-term food supplies. We visited six out of the nine, some more than once. At all of them, Janette and Charlotte led art activities, helped by the rest of us. It was probably a first experience of art work for many; the concentration was amazing, and the results gave much pleasure.



Marion and Phiona helping

3 Visit to the church and school at Kavumaga including some supported school children.



Janette and Charlotte helping Marion and Phiona serve nutritious porridge at lunch time.





On our first Sunday, we travelled a long way to Kavumaga where the school and church are together. We were welcomed at church by local communities, many children including our supported Batwa, and the Lay Reader, who conducted our service.

A queue for haircuts on the right,
then a good-bye from all, above.



4 Visit to the Batwa community at Kinyarushengye



Gilbert's
grandmother
with Sue on
the left and
Janette on
the right





Woman and children happy to see us



Meeting young parents and families



Marion counsels two young parents

5 Meeting our Rising Stars

A highlight of the visit was to meet all our Rising Star sponsored students. A few of these are in secondary education. We visited three students studying at Rock High School, whilst another is doing media studies at technical college.



Marion with the students



Technical College

6 Rise and Shine School

Most of our Rising Star primary children now study at Rise and Shine school, which is just a little way out of Kabale town, close enough to the WADU offices for regular visits and oversight. From our very first visit, we were welcomed into this school family by all the children and staff. Our Batwa Rising Stars are a happy integral part of the school family. It was such a blessing to



Brass band on sport's day



Fun in the playground

spend time with them. Our first visit was to a Sports Day which was great fun and games with participation from everyone. On other days we enjoyed games in the playgoround and Janette and Charlotte Lloyd led an amazing art and textile project with the Rising Stars and some of their friends. On behalf of sponsors we gave each Rising Star a Good News Bible. We thank God for the provision of this school. Thank you too to all you sponsors. Please consider sponsoring a Rising Star - it will be life changing for them.



Printing and sewing bags



Such concentration!



Look what we've done!

7 Final three days

Completion of the Latrine

Mike and Mick were pleased to assist Precious and Benjamin in the construction of another latrine. This was at Nyakera. We are hoping WADU can now give members of the Batwa communities confidence to construct more of their own.



Centre day in the rain

On our final Saturday the autumn rains arrived early. A centre day was planned at Nyakera, so Precious drove to collect the children, and the rest of the WADU team and ourselves made the long journey into the hills. It was a lesson for us regarding the challenges of this ministry, and



Cold, wet, but cheerful

the hardship of life for these deprived communities in all weathers. We sang and danced with remarkably cheerful children, got a fire going and eventually they had their meal of warm nutritious porridge. But the hair cutting and rest of the programme had to be abandoned. We drove home safely, but the WADU truck got stuck, the team had to walk the children home and then return themselves by bus.



8 Church with WADU and Rise and Shine family on our last Sunday.



Charlotte with all the children

The Lord provided sunshine both outside and in all our hearts for our final Sunday. Families, friends and many children, including all Rising Stars, worshipped together at the Reformed Anglican Church of Uganda which meets in a temporary structure

adjacent to the home of WADU leader Stephen Magezi. Lunch was provided for all and a late birthday cake for Sue! We all rejoiced and gave thanks to God for His many blessings. As we said farewell, we assured everyone of our continued love, prayers and support.



Sunday lunch for all

Reflections on his recent visit from Mick Lloyd, Treasurer of Christian Development Uganda.

Readers will know that the Batwa, formerly hunter-gatherers, were evicted from their jungle homes 30 years ago and now live as landless labourers among the local population, the Bakiga, who are themselves poor even by Ugandan standards, but at least they own land, which they have cultivated for centuries.

The Batwa exist by collecting wood from the forest and by helping the Bakiga with planting and harvesting, for which they are paid in kind when

the crops are harvested, often months after doing the work.

Almost every inch of the land is cultivated, right up to the tops of the mountains. Where we would have forests or sheep pasture, they have allotment-like fields, even on 45 degree slopes.

We have worked for many years to make life more bearable for the Batwa, but being landless, there is really no future for them where they have washed up among the Bakiga. They cannot partake even of Uganda's underdeveloped economy without skills or education. The best thing we can do for them is to educate their children.

Word & Deed regularly make hair-raising journeys along twisting mountain tracks little wider than a footpath, with a cliff on one side and an immeasurable drop on the other, to take food and educational materials to the schools up in the highlands. The Batwa children would not go to school if they did not get school dinners so the food is for them. The Bakiga are better off but they benefit too from the other ways in which the schools are supported such as water purification and playground equipment.

The other main way in which we seek to improve the prospects for the Batwa is by sponsorship of promising children. We have seventeen Batwa children boarding at primary schools in Kabale and four currently at secondary school or college.

'Home' for these children is a one-room shed on the side of a mountain: when they finish their education, these children will never live at home again. They will live a life in the wide world incomparably better than the lives their parents are living and it is expected that they will bless the communities from which they came when they are able.

We have a waiting list of thirteen children for whom we would like to find sponsors now, and there will always be more. Depending on the age of the child, sponsorship costs £30-40 a month and lasts up to six years, possibly more. It is a serious and long-term commitment but certainly will change a life in which there is really no hope of betterment into one full of opportunity.



Sue's birthday cake



Loo with a view



Rising Stars show
off their bags



Charlotte with a child



Dr Mike with Gilbert

If you feel able to offer to sponsor a Rising Star, please contact
sponsorship.cduganda@gmail.com

If you feel moved to purchase one or more Mama Kits @£15 please make a
donation to the CDU fund and notify the treasurer via post or email
accordingly. We shall publish a new Alternative Gift leaflet soon.

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>

Membership, Newsletter, and Website;

Mike Henderson, Tel: 01480 466101, or email henderson_michael@sky.com

General enquiries to the Secretary:

Email: secretary.cduganda@gmail.com