



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"

Annual Report 2023

*I am the Light of the world.
He who follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the Light of Life.*

John 8:12



A message from our chairman: 2023 a year of huge encouragement

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this annual report and as I reflect upon the year I want to echo the words of the psalmist on our front cover "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!" We have been privileged to watch God at work through Word and Deed Uganda as they have established a transforming ministry among the Batwa communities in Kabale and Rubanda districts of South West Uganda.

WADU's ministry is all embracing and at its heart is the desire to teach and demonstrate the love of Christ. It has been made possible thanks to the prayerful

commitment and financial support of all our supporters. On behalf of all the trustees of Christian Development Uganda I want to express our deepest gratitude to all of you. I hope, as you read this report, that you will be encouraged and inspired by the dedicated ministry of WADU. Please join with us in giving thanks to God for them and continue to pray and support us as we strive with them to impact these very needy communities and bring many to know, love and serve God.

Colin Townsend

A great visit to start the year

Our chairman and secretary, Colin and Sue Townsend, together with Mike Peachey, a trustee, accompanied by a great friend and supporter Dr Mike Dobson were warmly welcomed by Word and Deed Uganda when they visited for two weeks at the end of January into February. To share daily fellowship with Precious,

Stephen, Marion and Phiona, to be welcomed into their families and to witness the energy, ability and commitment of the whole team was incredible. There was opportunity for us all to share in their vision and future planning for WADU. There was also regular travel to the Batwa schools and communities to witness



Dr Mike and community medical outreach



Having fun on new wooden playground equipment



Welcome to the visiting team

the work first hand and participate in the ministry. Dr Mike was able to offer some valuable basic training in community health. The team were also able to be present at the joyful opening of new playground equipment at Kinyarushengye Primary School. This was equipment provided by a supporting school, Stanton Harcourt Primary near Witney. Colin and Mike also supervised the build of more wooden playground equipment at another of the community primary

schools. This was received with great excitement. Finally the team were privileged to meet the group of sponsored secondary and vocational college students and their relatives or guardians at a beginning of term service and meal organised by WADU. The love the students have for their sponsors was evident. It was a moving occasion with testimonies from students and those caring for them, testament to the care, both practical and spiritual being given by WADU.

Consolidation of the Schools ministry

2023 has seen WADU successfully work out a thorough programme of support and interventions for 8 different Batwa communities. At present this means 101 households and nearly 400 children. Their focus is the children and their aim is to get all the school age children into a primary school. Currently this is over 200 children. They have agreements with the head teachers of the schools, they supply each school with food for the Batwa numbers attending, and also a cook to prepare the food. They supply all the children with school equipment and sanitary necessities. Through the children they are able to contact and monitor the families.



Precious and Stephen as barbers

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Ready for the new school term

Regular visits are made to all the schools, with special educational interventions for some needy children, by the WADU team.

Monthly they carry out “Centre Days” when health and welfare is checked and the children given a special nutritious meal. Hair is cut regularly and feet checked for jiggers. Detailed records are being kept on all the children and families. These days also give opportunity for evangelism and fun and games for the children. Christmas and Easter are opportunities for special celebrations. This ministry is long term, and already proving transformational.

The Christian Development Uganda general mission fund will need long term regular support but that is what will sustain this valuable ministry. We are so thankful for all our regular donors. Our prayer is that God will also raise up some younger folk with a burden for this mission.



Regular health monitoring



Beginning of term food supplies

Ready to help in emergencies

In April and May 2023 Rubanda and Kabale districts suffered very heavy storms which caused devastating floods and landslides. There was loss of life, including some children, and destruction of homesteads. As soon as possible WADU visited those affected to pray, comfort them and offer help. Thanks to a generous response from some



Gilbert –on his legs again!

of our supporters they were able to supply mattresses and blankets to replace those lost in the floods, and tools to help recover their homes from the mud.

Later in the year, in one of the villages, WADU came across Gilbert, a thirteen year old boy who had been nursing a broken leg after a fall from a tree for several months. Again



Mattresses and blankets for Flood victims

we had a generous response to an appeal for help, and WADU took care of Gilbert and found a surgeon who operated on the leg. Gilbert is making an excellent recovery in the care of WADU and, thanks to a generous sponsor, is starting primary school on our Rising Stars programme.

Uniforms and Shoes

Our Lent Appeal in 2023 was for school uniforms. Alongside this appeal was also a “Happy Feet” shoe appeal by Stanton Harcourt School. These school children were troubled by the number of children suffering from jiggers, and so were inspired to fund raise to provide shoes. These appeals were both

successful. The uniform appeal raised a little over £2,000 the shoe appeal £510. As a result, amidst great excitement, WADU were able to provide school uniforms for the Batwa children attending all nine schools and also provide school shoes. We thank God for the generosity that enabled this very basic provision.



New uniforms and shoes



Proud in our uniforms

Alternative Gifts

Our Alternative Gift scheme remains an extremely helpful way of boosting WADU's ministry to the Batwa communities. We publicise it at Christmas, but we would encourage folk to use it all year round when looking for a gift for friends or family.

Our gift total this year was not far short of £2,000. Some gifts such as school meals, school equipment, sports equipment help boost the WADU regular schools ministry. Local language bibles are an essential tool for evangelism. The girls sanitary packs help WADU cope with this very necessary provision for all the young girls.



The water purifiers are a crucial gift and this year WADU have provided water purifiers for all the school communities to help provide clean drinking water. The animals are always joyfully received as they provide a means of income generation as well as manure and food.

Water purifiers ensure clean drinking water.



A big thank you from the girls



Joyful thanks for the gift of sheep.

Other gifts

It is always a privilege when someone visits Kabale to be able to take gifts. Our visit this year was no exception. In addition to some personal gifts to the WADU team, we were able to take a great quantity of knitted goods:- blankets, babies vests and hats, many of which had been knitted and stored up over Covid. A big thank you to everyone who helped in this way. On

cold nights every woollen item is gratefully received.

At the request of WADU we also took with us 12 LCD writing tablets. These are proving invaluable for the WADU team and some teachers for helping with one to one and small group interventions with the children in schools. They are so successful that we are looking to provide more.



Small group learning with LCD writing tablets



Thank you to all knitters

Sponsored students



Sponsored students equipped and ready for the autumn term

We were saddened early in the year to lose Gill Henderson, who for many years faithfully and skilfully coordinated our sponsorship scheme. We are so pleased to welcome Abigail Felce as our new sponsorship secretary. Five students have been supervised in secondary school throughout this year, seven students have graduated from the African College of Commerce and Technology and one young lady has graduated from teacher training college.

WADU has supervised and mentored all of these and their gratitude, and that of their guardians was plain to see when trustees met them all on their visit. A huge

thank you also to our faithful sponsors. These young folk owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Together with WADU we are embarking in 2024 on a new era of sponsorship. There is a realisation that some of our Batwa youngsters are worthy of a higher standard of education than is provided at the rural primary schools.

The programme is called Rising Stars and we are thankful that we have sponsors to enable this programme to begin in February 2024. If you would consider sponsoring a Rising Star please contact Abigail on sponsorship.cduganda@gmail.com



Moreen, having completed tailoring and dressmaking, now set up in business in her home.



Graduating students with Phiona and Marion.

And the wonderful provision of a much needed vehicle

Throughout 2023 the prayers of our trustees and of WADU have been that the Lord would provide WADU with a suitable vehicle for their ministry. Daily access to all the Batwa communities is essential and using hired vehicles was becoming difficult and unreliable. To enable WADU to purchase a suitable 4 by 4 double cabin required funds that Christian Development Uganda did not have. We needed to raise funds and so launched our vehicle appeal. We received some very generous donations to this appeal, and a fund raising concert that was held at Saint Ebbe`s Church, Oxford, did a lot to advertise the appeal and raise funds. The appeal raised over £20,000 and wonderfully we received an unexpected legacy of £21,000. In faith trustees instructed WADU to search for a vehicle in December and the Toyota Land Cruiser was found matching almost exactly the funds raised. We have a faithful God. Please give thanks with us for this incredible provision.



Joy on the faces of Phiona, Marion and Precious



Christmas visit to these children in the new vehicle



The WADU Toyota Land Cruiser displaying WADU and Christian Development Uganda logos

This provision demonstrates how God can use the gift of a legacy. If you have never considered leaving a legacy to Christian Development Uganda perhaps this might encourage you to do so.

From Mick Lloyd, our treasurer

It is my privilege as your treasurer to oversee fund raising and the distribution of those funds in order to sustain the ministry of Word and Deed Uganda. We thank God for providing the income needed for this past year. Christian Development Uganda has funded the WADU ministry in the following ways:-

Word & Deed running costs: £36,942

staff salaries and administrative costs – offices, night guard, utilities, equipment.

Mission costs: £ 43,360

schools ministry: school meals, all educational materials, shoes and uniforms. Also flood relief and medical costs for Gilbert.

Secondary School sponsorship: £ 5,696

increasing to Rising Stars

Alternative gifts: £1,957

including water purifiers and contributions to school equipment and community supplies

Toyota Land Cruiser £43,772

including half from a legacy

Total: £131,727

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We would be so grateful for donations:

Account: Christian Development Uganda

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