Gerry and Rose George

'Setting the captives free…' Isa. 61

Charity no: 1084190

ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Building a community in Kiyindi, Uganda
Christmas 2026

Christmas Hope for Kiyindi

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

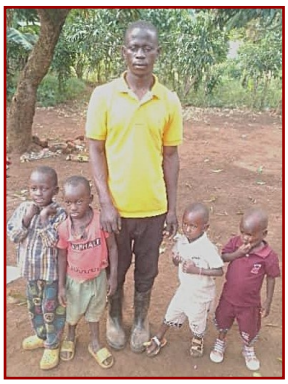
As Christmas approaches, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the people who over the years have stood with this ministry in Kiyindi. Some of you have supported the work for a long time, while others may be hearing about it for the first time. Wherever you fit into that story, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter & to share in the lives of the precious people we serve.

It hardly seems possible that we have now been working there for over 26 yrs. What was then a small fishing village on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda has grown into a busy town. Through God's faithfulness, what began as a vision to serve the community has grown into (amongst other things) nursery, primary & secondary schools educating more than 700 children, a busy medical & birthing centre, & a thriving church, with a congregation who despite having very little themselves continually look for ways to support one another & reach out with God's love both locally & to the island communities of Lake Victoria.

As I write this Christmas letter, I think of the children who fill the classrooms each day, the mothers who come to the clinic seeking help, the teachers & medical staff who faithfully serve despite many challenges, & our dear friends Pastor Dan, his wife Faith & others who continue to give so much of themselves to the Lord's work. Like many places around the world though, Kiyindi has experienced difficult times in recent years. The effects of covid, rising prices, scarcity of employment & harsh restrictions on fishing have left many families struggling just to put food on the table. For some, Christmas will be just another day, marked by hardship & uncertainty about the future… Yet even amid these challenges, there is hope… Every day we see lives being touched through education, medical care, practical support & the sharing of the Gospel. We see communities helping one another as they are able, & we are reminded that the Christmas story itself began in humble circumstances, bringing light into a troubled world. The teachers continue to teach, medical staff continue caring for patients, & the church continues reaching out with the love of Christ. They keep going because they believe that every child matters, every life matters, & every person deserves to hear the gospel & to experience God's love in practical ways. We all need that gift of hope to enable us to keep going!

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we thank God for His faithfulness over the past 26 years & for every person who has prayed, given & encouraged us along the way. You are part of this story too, & we could not continue this work without your partnership.

'***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given…'*** Isaiah 9:6



Talking of hope… Some of you have asked how the two sets of twins are doing - the ones who came so close to losing their lives through severe malnutrition after their father was imprisoned for five years for fishing. Well, we are delighted to share that, as the photograph shows, they are now healthy, thriving, & full of life. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to help their mother start a small charcoal business & secure the father's release from prison. He is now working hard to find employment to provide for his family. What a wonderful reminder of the difference your kindness can make; & such a beautiful illustration of hope.

2026 has not been without its challenges, particularly in the area of finances, yet we thank God that the work continues - 3 of the 7 lge. water tanks required are installed & operational, helping to reduce both water & electricity costs. Harvesting rainwater in this way not only supports the day-to-day running of the project but also helps protect the buildings. In addition, new gov. regs. have made lightning conductors mandatory, & we are pleased to report that 3 of the 10 needed have now being installed (see overleaf).

We continue to support our much-loved Pastor Dan & his wife Faith, both of whom require ongoing hospital treatment; along with headmaster/overseer Stephen following his motorbike accident. The charity is helping to meet some of these costs during this difficult season.

We have also been able to reduce some of the staff salary arrears that accumulated due to a shortage of school fee payments. This has largely been caused by government fishing restrictions, which have significantly affected family incomes in the community. Whilst this remains an ongoing challenge, we are grateful for the progress that has been made & for God's faithful provision every step.



Back home: Gerry is still busy evangelising whenever he can & He also runs the popular Healing Zone (Thurs eves) The Prophets' Parlour (Fri eves) & preaching sessions to Nigeria & India (all on zoom). Rose is still very much involved with the 'Way of the Spirit' team in Horsham & district, with monthly training meetings in the Kingdom Faith Church building, & she holds Bible courses at home - & long walks with Teddy the dog.

And of course we both enjoy preaching & teaching, & sharing about our work in Uganda whenever invited.



How You Can Help This Christmas…

As I think about all that God has done in Kiyindi over the years, I am full of gratitude. Yet I would be less than honest if I did not share some of the challenges our brothers and sisters are facing right now. The greatest gift ever given was not wrapped in paper or placed beneath a tree. It came in the form of a child, born in humble surroundings, bringing hope to a needy world. Today, the people of Kiyindi need that same hope…

An Urgent Need: Lightning Protection… One of the most pressing needs facing the ministry today is the installation of lightning arresters on all ministry buildings. This has become increasingly urgent following a recent storm, during which lightning struck one of the buildings. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, but it was a sharp reminder of the danger to the hundreds of children, staff and patients who use these facilities daily. These are now a mandatory safety requirement, and we urgently need to install at least **10 units** across the site. **Cost per arrester including installation: £160 Total required: £1,600** So far we have managed to get 3.

What a great Christmas blessing it'd be to start the new year knowing the buildings were now safer for every child, teacher, patient & staff.

Other Important Needs… Along with general running costs for the whole work that is...

Staff Salaries: The ministry is working hard to clear salary arrears & ensure that teachers, healthcare workers & support staff receive the wages they have faithfully earned. (56 workers in all) 'The worker deserves his wages' 1 Tim. 5:18 It is not honouring to the Lord if they have to wait..

Medical Centre and Pharmacy Supplies: The clinic depends on a regular supply of medicines, medical equipment as well as essential consumables to continue treating patients effectively. They also need, amongst other things, a scanner, Dental unit & Lab equipment,

Food for Students: Many children arrive at school hungry. Providing meals can make the difference between a child thriving in education or struggling to learn. Whether boarders or day students, they must be fed.

Educational Resources: Books, stationery, classroom materials and teaching aids are always needed to support effective learning.



Replacement Computers: The existing computers have become too old to cope with modern technology and are no longer suitable for teaching computer skills. New equipment would enable young people and members of the wider community to gain valuable digital skills for the future. When the computers were working, this was the most sort after area of job-skills training we provided

Medical Support for Pastor Dan and Faith: Please continue to pray for Pastor Dan and Faith as they face ongoing health challenges. Faith now requires the constant use of a nebuliser, and the costs of treatment and medical care continue to place additional pressure on the family.

Sharing the Hope of Christ… Whilst practical needs are great, the heart of this ministry remains unchanged. Every lesson taught, every patient treated, every child cared for and every outreach journey made to the islands of Lake Victoria is rooted in the desire to share the love of Jesus Christ. The Christmas story reminds us that hope entered the world through a child born in humble circumstances. That same hope continues to transform lives in Kiyindi today. Your support helps make that possible. Maybe you could add it to your Christmas gift list?

Thank You for Standing With Kiyindi As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank every person who has prayed, given, encouraged, & shared in this ministry. The work in Kiyindi has never been about buildings, programmes or projects, it is about people. It is about a child receiving an education that can change the course of their life. It is about a mother receiving medical care when she needs it most. It is about a family hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ and finding hope in difficult times. It is about knowing that, although the challenges are great, they are not facing them alone. This Christmas, as you gather with those you love, please remember our brothers & sisters in Uganda. Remember the children filling the classrooms, the patients visiting the clinic, the teachers faithfully serving, and Pastor Dan and Faith as they continue to pour out their lives for their community. If God places it on your heart to support this work, we would be deeply grateful. Whatever the size of your gift, it will be received not simply as a donation, but as an expression of God's love & care for the people of Kiyindi. Together, we can help ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine brightly in Kiyindi for years to come.

May the peace, joy and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your homes this Christmas and throughout 2027.

With our heartfelt thanks and every blessing, this Christmas, from Gerry & Rose, the trustees of Advance International Ministries, along with our brothers & sisters in Uganda.

"And whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **Matthew 25:40**



Big challenges, but as the School motto says: 'With God on our side we shall win'



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