

# Abaana News

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Issue # 41



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**Bringing Hope to the  
Children of Africa**

Charity No: NIC102174

# Thank You For Your Continued Support



Children at Kadok Primary

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and prayers. It is exciting to see the impact we can make in Uganda and inspiring to see our children become leaders in their communities. One of our early sponsor children is even running in the local election as an MP!

**Your amazing response to our Kadok Primary School Appeal raised over £90,000.** When I first visited Kadok, I saw children sitting in lessons under a roof of sticks and mud walls, open to the wind and rain. Construction of a brand new, permanent school building will soon begin, giving hundreds of children a safe place to learn.

This year has been one of the most exciting in Abaana's journey. After some delays, we're thrilled to announce that we now have the keys to our new office - the old AIB Bank on Main Street, Bangor - and plan to move in the first half of 2026.

We have had a busy summer, with six teams from UK schools and churches travelling to Uganda - sharing faith, friendship, and hope while building classrooms, kitchens, and latrines.

None of this would be possible without you - our sponsors, supporters, churches, and schools. Every gift, prayer, and act of kindness helps build brighter futures for Uganda's children.

Thank you for standing with us, and for believing in the vision.

**Scott Baxter**  
CEO, Abaana Ministries



# From Struggling for Pencils to a University Diploma – By Amiri Bongole

For many children in Uganda, simply attending school each day is a struggle. Limited resources at home and a lack of basic supplies—like pencils and paper—can make regular attendance difficult and cause some children to drop out.

One boy, Amiri, experienced these challenges, but sponsorship through Abaana helped him overcome these obstacles and find hope again.

“My name is Amiri Bongole, and I want to thank the Almighty God who made it possible for me to be part of the Abaana sponsorship programme.

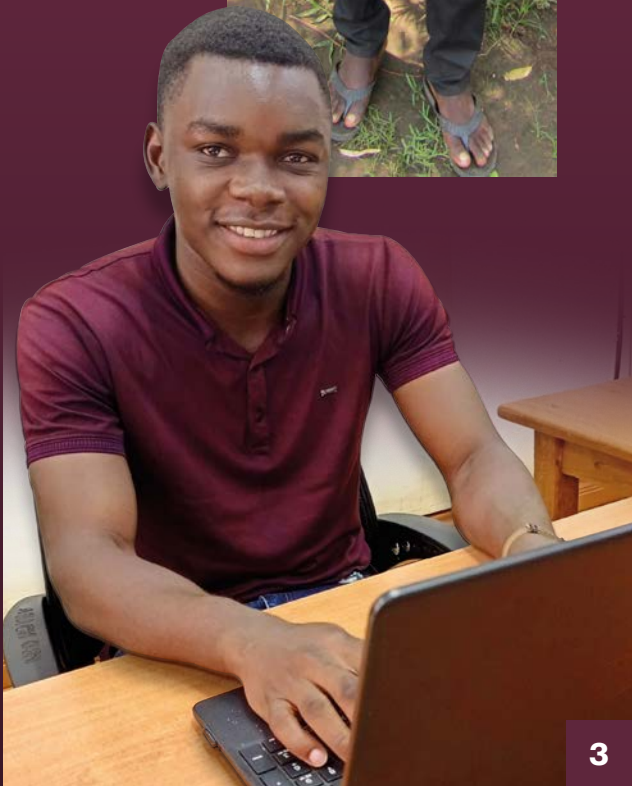
I joined sponsorship when I was just 8 years old and in Primary 2. Before then, life was not easy, and it would have been very difficult for me to stay in school. But with the help of my sponsor everything changed. My school fees, scholastic materials, uniforms, and even medical care were provided for me. Because of that support, I was able to continue in school without dropping out.

Step by step, I went through primary school, secondary school, and finally university. I studied hard and, by God's grace, I was able to pass all my exams.

I am proud to say that I completed my course and graduated with a Diploma in Computer Science and Information Technology from university. That was one of the greatest achievements of my life.

Sponsorship has given me knowledge, hope, and confidence for the future. With the skills I now have in technology, I dream of becoming a self-sustaining person who can achieve his goals and also help others.

To my sponsor, I say ‘thank you.’ You have stood with me for so many years, and your support has truly changed my life. I will always be grateful.”







## Building More Than Schools – Abaana Teams

Abaana's 2025 teams travelled from schools, churches and communities across the UK to Uganda. They did practical work, but more than that, they shared life, faith and hope with children and families. The impact goes far beyond bricks and paint – it's about dignity, second chances, and a future filled with hope.



### Belfast High School

Painted Lweza Primary School

"Volunteering and sponsorship can change the outcome of these children's lives."

– Emily (Belfast High School)



### Archbishop Holgate's School

Painted Kisole Baptist Primary School

"Never have we been so welcomed and loved – or danced and sung so much!"

– Joanna (Archbishop Holgate School)



## Rainey Endowed School

Built latrines, a kitchen and supplied 53 desks



## Umoja '25

Painted Arise and Shine Primary School



## Mullabrack & Kilcluney Parishes

Built nursery, latrines & kitchen at Atukubui and painted Buyobe Primary School

Our sponsor child's father said, "You've not only changed my son's life, but my entire family. Thank you!"

- Tracy (Mullabrack & Kilcluney Parish)



## Newtownbreda Baptist Team

Renovated a kitchen and repaired water services

"Visiting the New Life Homes reminded me that I have been chosen for a new life, given a second chance."

- Emma (Newtownbreda Baptist)

## Thank You

Huge thanks go out to Abanaa's 2025 team partners, who fundraised and travelled to Uganda to do so much more than build or paint. Friendships have been made, lives have been shared and the Lord has been glorified.





Amy and Mark, with sponsor child, Reihaan

## Step into the Unknown

**Uganda was a whirlwind.** Our days were full, fast paced, and overwhelming in the best way. Yet within the movement came quiet moments that made me stop and take it all in. What struck me most wasn't what people didn't have, but what they did have – joy that overflowed, generosity that seemed to have no limits, and love that greeted us everywhere we went.

Supporting a charity from a distance can sometimes feel abstract. Struggles seem far away and almost unreal when measured against the comfort of our own lives. But standing there in person changes everything. We saw the power of education opening doors that once seemed locked. We met children rescued from the streets who now dream of careers, homes, and transforming their communities. And we experienced the deep, authentic love of Abaana's staff—for their country, their young people, and even for us, simply for showing up to be part of their story.

Coming home, we carried more than just memories. Uganda left its imprint on our hearts: the faces, the laughter, the resilience, the hope. My mindset and my faith feel stronger, deeper. My heart for mission has been renewed, and I sense there is so much more we can do. God has stirred something in me—a faith that doesn't just rest quietly, but acts.

If I could say one thing to anyone considering a trip like this, it would be: go. Don't hesitate. Step into the unknown, because what you'll discover is not just an experience, but a perspective that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

**By Amy Anderson, Umoja Team '25**

To register your interest to join a team, go to [abaana.org/teams](http://abaana.org/teams)



# Empowered Through Skills: Prossy's Path to Independence

When Prossy joined Abaana's sponsorship programme in 2018, life was incredibly difficult for her family. Her parents relied entirely on subsistence farming, and with little or no cash income, even providing daily essentials was a constant challenge. Education was a dream they simply couldn't afford.

It was at this crucial stage that Abaana stepped in. With the support of a sponsor, Prossy was able to stay in school, receive the materials she needed, and focus on her studies. She worked hard and, by God's grace, progressed all the way to Primary 7, proudly completing her primary education.

But her journey didn't end there. Prossy chose to pursue a vocational course in hairdressing — a decision that opened the door to independence and opportunity. With determination and the support she received through sponsorship, she successfully completed her course and is now equipped with valuable skills that will provide her with a brighter future.

Prossy's story is a testimony to the power of sponsorship: when one life is given a chance, hope takes root, and dreams begin to flourish.

In her own words Prossy says, "I will forever remember Abaana Ministries for supporting me. My most memorable experience is the Bible camp that drew me to know God. I am so thankful to Abaana and my sponsor for the great work done in my life. Surely, I wouldn't have made it. Abaana has supported me so much in a way I cannot explain. May God continue blessing our sponsors."

When Prossy's family couldn't afford school, Abaana stepped in. Today she has an education, a skill, and a future. You can give another child the same chance — sponsor today for just £26/month.





# Sing for joy! Choir Leaders Reunited with Their Ugandan Family



What a joy it was to meet up with Choir 3 while on our team trip to Uganda in August!

The Abaana staff had kept the reunion a secret, and when the children realised we were at the Abaana Guest house, the noise, laughter, and excitement were unforgettable. Within minutes it felt as if we had never been apart—we simply picked up where we had left off, with hugs, chatter, and oh yes, some tears.

We enjoyed a fun packed weekend camp of games, craft and precious times of worship together. Hearing the children sing again was incredible—their voices just as beautiful, and their dancing as energetic as ever. We revised our memory verses and with a little prompting, they recited John 3:16–17 and Psalm 23.

Rodney shared from Galatians on the Fruit of the Spirit, which we then turned into memory work and crafts. Small groups were very special as we gathered around God's Word and in prayer.





It was encouraging to see how the choir tour has impacted their lives. The children had grown, are thriving at school and full of dreams for the future. We reminisced, looked at photos and videos with delight and giggles. Their joy was evident.

On Saturday we surprised the children with a trip to a local swimming pool—a rare treat! And on Sunday we welcomed their Ugandan chaperones, Aunt Sarah, Aunt Tabitha, and Uncle Habert, for lunch. The Abaana Guest house and office staff made everything feel like home, surrounding the children with love and care.

When the back-to-school bus came on Sunday afternoon, saying goodbye was hard. But what a blessing it was to be reunited. These children will always be our choir, our family.

**By Rodney & Jacqueline**

New Life Choir 3 Tour Leaders



Rodney & Jacqueline



Built in 2006, the New Life Homes (NLH) are transitional homes for boys rescued from the streets.

## The Transformative Impact of New Life Homes

### Building Skills for the Future

A new and exciting project at New Life Homes is giving the boys the chance to learn lifelong skills in agriculture. Thanks to generous supporters from Ballyclare Presbyterian Church, we've built chicken coops and a piggery where the boys raise and care for the baby animals.

The boys have learned to feed, clean, and manage the livestock, gaining hands on experience every day. They've also been trained how to spot illness early, keep high hygiene standards, and work as a team. These practical lessons go far beyond farming—they teach responsibility, resilience, and self-confidence.

The project is designed to be self-sustaining. Proceeds from the sale of chickens and piglets will fund feed, veterinary care, and new animals, while a portion will be shared as a group reward, motivating the boys and giving them a real sense of achievement.

Most importantly, this initiative isn't just about animals—it's about futures. The boys are discovering skills they can carry into adulthood, while New Life Homes benefits from a project that will grow year after year.

**Akran & Changa tending to the chicks**





## They provide care, education and a safe place to live for the boys.

Together, we're helping raise not only chickens and pigs—but a new generation of young men with purpose, pride, and hope.

Akran (Primary Six) "Before this project, I didn't know anything about taking care of animals. Now, I wake up early every day to check on the chicks. I've learned how to feed them, clean their house, refill their feeders and drinkers, and even give them medicine when needed. I feel very proud when I see them growing strong and healthy."

Emmanuel (Primary Five) "I was so excited when the piglets arrived! I had never looked after pigs before, so when Uncle asked me to join the piglet team, I felt happy. I now help with regular cleaning and feeding. I'm learning how pigs grow and how to care for them. I enjoy it so much, and I think I can have my own piggy in the future."

To support the work of New Life Homes please visit [abaana.org/donate](http://abaana.org/donate)



Emmanuel & Ramsey tending to the pigs



# Faces, Faith & Futures – by Judith Menary



My husband Nigel and I belong to Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Church and we had the great privilege of being part of a 34 strong team that went out to Uganda with Abaana.

As part of our trip, we had the opportunity to work at Atukubui Nursery and Primary School. I spent four days with the children, me in the classroom and Nigel as part of the building team, who began the construction of a new three roomed nursery school and kitchen.

We knew of Abaana's Child Sponsorship Programme and after spending just one day at the school, we strongly felt the need and desire to sponsor a child. We had seen first-hand how this can make such a difference in the life of not only the child you sponsor, but to the whole family, the village and to the school.

I truly believe God gave us the compassion and direction to pick Gracious. A beautiful little girl with an amazing smile, who wants to be a nurse.

We were given the opportunity of meeting Gracious the next day and visiting her home later that week – a unique opportunity that not every sponsor gets. This was an amazing and humbling experience. The welcome that Gracious's family gave us is something that will stay with Nigel and I for a very long time. Their generosity and hospitality were immeasurable.





Anyone who is considering sponsoring a child can be assured of the good work and the benefits it can have. For a small financial sacrifice, you can make a huge difference in the life of that one child and their family.

We look forward to being a part of Gracious' journey, to watch her grow and progress through school, and one day with God's help she will be able to accomplish her goals and ambitions.

To find out more about the impact you could have through sponsoring a child, please contact [chris@abaana.org](mailto:chris@abaana.org)



# CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL 2025

This Christmas, you have a wonderful opportunity to bring joy and hope to our sponsored children and their families in Uganda. By purchasing a Christmas Bundle, you can help make the season truly special for a child in need. Each bundle has been carefully put together to provide both practical essentials and thoughtful gifts—bringing smiles and delight to children who might otherwise go without.

Together, we can share the gifts of joy, hope, and love this Christmas. Every single contribution makes a real difference!

**You can choose from four different Christmas Bundles—or mix and match any combination if you'd like to bless more than one child.**

**BUNDLE 1: (£25)** An age-appropriate gift, essential food items such as rice, peas, beans, cooking oil and biscuits.

**BUNDLE 2: (£35)** Contains all items in Bundle 1 plus a blanket, toothbrush & paste and some sweets.

**BUNDLE 3 (£55)** Contains all items in Bundles 1 & 2 and a mattress.

**BUNDLE 4 (£65)** Contains all items in Bundles 1 – 3 and provides an additional gift for a child who does not have a sponsor.

If you would like to purchase a bundle(s) or simply donate an amount of your choice to our Christmas Gift Appeal, you may use the QR code to take you to our website, or please go to: [www.abaana.org/christmas](http://www.abaana.org/christmas)

Thank you so much for your support!





## Empowering girls to reach their full potential

# Zuri Girl

We are delighted that twelve primary schools benefited from the Zuri Girls project this year! This is a six week educational programme which focuses on self-esteem and sexual purity for girls and boys, and also menstruation care for girls.

Previous participants were recently asked what impact Zuri has made in their lives:

Zam had this to say, "For me I learnt many things during Zuri, but two that stand out are period management and self-esteem. I used to hate that time of my periods because most times my uniform would be stained. Other children would laugh at me and this made me hate being a woman! Because of Zuri, I learnt how to count my days and now I know when my periods will come. I learnt that I can improvise pads by making them myself. I also learnt how to manage the pain and not a single day will my periods stop me from going to school.

For self-esteem, I use to look down on myself. I did not see anything good in me but because of Zuri, I learnt how valuable I am and that God has a reason for creating me the exact way He did. I can now confidently share my views with others. Even in class it was difficult for me to raise my hand and give an answer even when I knew it. It's not the same today and I am very active in my class. Thank you Zuri for helping me know that I am worthy."





Ryan is grateful he attended Zuri. "I was privileged to attend Zuri. I learnt a lot of things that I had so many myths about. I learnt that HIV is real, but through the right personal choices, someone can be safe from it. Because my age is a little high for primary school, I used to struggle to accept reality and sometimes I would be tempted to drop out of school. I thank God that through the Zuri lessons, I learnt that God has good plans for me. Plans to prosper me and this gave me the confidence to stay in school. I don't care what others think of my age. I am focused on completing my studies. Thanks to Zuri and Abanaa for restoring my hope."

Over 600 children received the training this year with an additional 200 dignity packs given out to our sponsored children in secondary school. We are so grateful to everyone who supports Zuri, you are making a real difference in the lives of children in Uganda!

If you would like to help us expand our Zuri Girl project, please contact Louise at [louise@abanaa.org](mailto:louise@abanaa.org) or visit the website [abanaa.org/ZuriGirl](http://abanaa.org/ZuriGirl)



# CHRISTMAS CARDS £4 PER PACK

## Choose from two different varieties

Each pack of 8 cards contains 4 different images with a Bible verse and Christmas greeting inside. **£11 for 2 packs including P&P to UK.**



Please visit our website for more info: [www.abaana.org/store](http://www.abaana.org/store)

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