

# Abaana News

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**Bringing Hope to the  
Children of Africa**

Charity No: NIC102174

## Kadok Primary School

When I first visited Kadok Primary School, I found it a difficult experience. I have visited many schools in similar conditions before, but it was especially moving to hear the children describe, in their own words, what they disliked most about their school. They spoke about having to smear cow dung on the floor, and about the anti-social behaviour of people who came onto the school grounds at weekends to drink and even went to the toilet on or around their desks.

To top it off, the children were learning in semi-permanent classrooms that offered little protection from the sun, wind, and rain. The conditions were poor, and yet the community clearly valued education and was determined to keep the school going.

Abaana is partnering with the Church of Uganda on this project, and the church sees the school as a community outreach and an expression of God's love.

In March, I had the privilege of visiting Kadok again, and this time the scene was completely different.

This stage of the project is now fully funded and includes seven classrooms, administration space, latrines and desks. Construction of the new school building began in January 2026 and is due to be completed by May.

Standing there and seeing the progress first-hand was so encouraging. It was also wonderful to see the excitement of the children who had been learning in such difficult conditions and who will soon begin a new term in a building that is safer, stronger, and far more fitting for their education.

The school is expected to reopen after the school holidays on 25th May 2026, and I left Kadok with a real sense of gratitude and hope. One of the most special parts of the visit was seeing the community gather to say thank you. Their appreciation was clear and heartfelt. For them, this is far more than a new building. It is a sign that their children matter, that their future matters, and that change is possible.

I am so grateful to everyone who has helped make this possible. Your kindness has turned concern into action, and action into something lasting. Soon, the children of Kadok will walk into new classrooms for the start of term, and I know that will be a day of real joy.

Thank you for helping to make it happen.

**Scott Baxter**  
CEO, Abaana

## 300 Gifts Given

On top of the new buildings, every family represented at Kadok Primary, covering around 300 children, were able to receive a present including food, washing items and some sweets. Kids and parents alike were delighted!



# 2025 Street Reach Christmas Party – Thank You



Every year, we run a **Christmas party** for the children who attend our **Street Reach programme**. Our team in Uganda provides a vital support network for children living on the streets, caring for those in need, identifying those who are most at risk, and assessing which children may be suitable for rescue and placement in the New Life Homes.

Because of your support, 95 children in Kampala were able to enjoy a special Christmas celebration filled with joy, care, fun, and hope. For many of these children, life is marked by hardship, uncertainty, and daily struggle. Christmas can easily pass as just another difficult day. But through your support, these children were able to celebrate Christmas.

The event was an opportunity not only to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but also to remind these children that they are seen, valued, and loved. The day included stories and verses from the Bible, singing, worship, art and craft activities, football, and other games. There was lots of laughter and excitement as the children took part.

Each child also received a small Christmas gift, including sandals, sweets, and balloons, which brought huge smiles and added to the joy of the day.

A nutritious meal of rice, meat, and soda was shared together, something that was very much appreciated by the children. While this may seem simple, moments like this matter greatly. They create space for children to experience care, dignity, and belonging.

Importantly, the event also gave social workers the opportunity to spend time with the children, offer counselling, and identify those who may be ready for support beyond the streets.

One little boy we met, around eight years old, had severe sores on his face.

He told us they had been there for a long time. As we gently asked about his story, he explained that his father had brought him to the street, given him 40p, and told him to find something to eat. When he returned, his father was gone. From that moment, the street became his home.

After the party, we took him to a medical centre, where he was diagnosed with a fungal infection, something sadly common among children living on the streets, where hygiene and sanitation are so poor. The good news is that, with a simple cream and a few weeks of treatment, his face has healed well.

Even more encouraging, he became the first boy from this party to be rescued into the New Life Homes. He is now settling in there, beginning a new chapter filled with safety, care, and hope.

Stories like his remind us why this work matters so much. Thank you for standing with us and helping children like him find the chance of a different future. Two other vulnerable boys are also being prepared for rescue and placement at New Life Homes.

None of this would have happened without people like you.

Your support does far more than provide practical help. It brings hope to children who are often forgotten. It opens doors for care, counselling, medical support, and the possibility of a different future. It reminds children living in very difficult circumstances that they matter to God and to others.

Thank you for standing with Abaana and for making moments like this possible.



## New Life Choirs



A highlight of every visit to Uganda is spending time with the choir children. With 60 of them now, that time always seems too short. It is hard to believe that the journey began 10 years ago, when the first choir children were being auditioned for Choir 1. Back then they seemed so small, but now both Choir 1 (2017) and Choir 2 (2019) have fully graduated from primary school, leaving only Choir 3 still in primary school.

It brings great joy to see how these children have grown and matured. Some are no longer really children at all, but young adults. Many continue to hold positions of responsibility within school, and several of the older ones have become like older brothers and sisters to the younger children.

Although this visit was short, it was wonderful to see them and encouraging to know they are all moving forward. Please continue to pray for these young people, as many are now making important decisions about the next stage of their education.

**Thank you for your continued support for the choir children. We are currently planning for the next choir in 2028 to celebrate 30 years of Abaana!**



## New Offices & Shop

An exciting new chapter is unfolding for Abaana as we prepare to move into our new offices in spring 2026. Work began on 12th January, and the 17-week project is progressing well, with everything on track for staff to relocate to the new offices at 85 Main Street.

Now at the halfway point, real transformation is taking place. The walls are beginning to receive their first coats of paint, while the new ceilings, electrics, and heating system are already installed and undergoing testing. Newly fitted windows are not only enhancing the workspace but also bringing a fresh look to Bangor Main Street.

We're looking forward to welcoming visitors into the new premises very soon, and we'll be sharing more details in the coming weeks—including updates on the reopening of the charity shop.



## Intern – Charlie Allen

Since January, we've had Charlie Allen with us in the Abaana offices. As he prepares to begin Bible College this autumn, Charlie has been investing time connecting with Abaana supporters and getting involved in a wide range of activities.

He has joined our staff in visiting schools, helping to lead Religious Studies classes, deliver information sessions, and take part in worship times with Scripture Union groups. Through this, Charlie has built valuable new relationships with schools and church groups—connections we're excited to develop further in the future.

Before heading off to Bible College, Charlie will be travelling to Uganda as part of our Umoja Team. He will be an integral member of that group and its ministry in the northern region.

For anyone who wants to become more involved with Abaana there will be opportunities to do so in the very near future, especially with the charity shop. Keep an eye on our social media and website for information. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [admin@abaana.org](mailto:admin@abaana.org) and indicate your main area of interest as a volunteer.



## Through Sponsorship: Orphan to Advocate

Over the 28 years of Abaana's history we have had the tremendous privilege of witnessing many children progress through their education to reach very significant points in their young lives. One such child, now a young woman, is Faith. Her journey began, like so many children in Uganda, in abject poverty and hopelessness. Faith tells her story in her own words:

*"I was born in 2001 and grew up as an orphan, raised by relatives and moving between homes with very limited resources. Basic needs like school fees and books often felt out of reach, and growing up without parents brought both emotional and financial challenges.*

*Despite this, I loved learning. Hope came through Abaana Ministries, who saw potential in me and invested in my education. With their support, I progressed from primary school to university—an opportunity that changed my life and gave me belief in a better future.*

*I was also blessed with a sponsor whose encouragement through regular letters motivated me to work hard. Although my education journey was challenging, I remained determined and became the top student in my final year of secondary school before pursuing law at university.*

*Law school brought academic pressure and financial struggles, but I persevered with the support of my guardians, sponsor, and mentors. I am now preparing to graduate with a Bachelor of Law Degree in October 2026, followed by the Bar exam.*

*Looking ahead, I am committed to using my education to make a difference. I aim to advocate for justice for underprivileged families and give a voice to the vulnerable.*

*My journey is a testament to hope, support, and perseverance: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)"*



Faith's sponsor, Karen, had this to say, "I am very proud of the strong, confident young woman that Faith has become, and all of her academic achievements, and I hope that my sponsorship of Faith through Abaana has contributed some small part in her success. It has certainly enriched my life.

*I wish Faith every continued blessing as she moves forward.*

*I also hope many more people like me take up the opportunity to sponsor a child through Abaana, as it has brought me nothing but happiness, hope and gratitude."*

If you wish to offer hope and opportunity to a child through sponsorship, like Faith, then contact [chris@abaana.org](mailto:chris@abaana.org) and for as little as £26 per month you too may help a child receive a life changing education.



# 2025 Christmas Appeal Thanks



Sahiba receiving her Christmas Gifts

## We Feel Special and Cherished

We had an incredible response to our annual Christmas Gift Scheme! Over £76,000 was raised to enable 1,700 sponsored children to directly benefit from the kindness of so many sponsors and donors. We are truly so very thankful and wanted to share what these gifts mean to the children and their families.

*"I am very happy to receive so many lovely Christmas gifts from my sponsor. This Christmas is going to be a wonderful one. I want to thank my sponsor for the great care and love they have for my family and me. We feel special and cherished. We plan to cook a meal and share it together during Christmas, and this is a beautiful tradition for us as a family. I also really like the beautiful blanket I received; it will keep me warm at night, especially during the rainy season. I have never had one before. Thank you once again to my sponsors for their kind and caring hearts. I pray that God blesses my sponsor."* Gracious



Gracious



Leticia, Joshua & Elijah from New Life Choir 3 receiving their Christmas Gifts

*"I am very happy with the beautiful mattress I received today. I've never had a mattress like this before. Until now, I was sleeping on an old, torn papyrus mat, which I covered with old, worn clothes to keep warm at night. It was quite uncomfortable. I am so grateful to my sponsor for thinking of me and providing me with such a nice mattress. Now, I have a very comfortable place to sleep. I pray that God blesses my sponsor and Abaana Ministries."* Emmanuel

Kevin is a resettled New Life Homes boy. When he received his Christmas gifts he had this to say, *"My family members and I are so happy to receive Christmas gifts from Abaana. I thank my sponsors for always thinking about me and providing for me with school fees and such nice Christmas gifts. I'm really going to enjoy this Christmas together with my family. I like the blanket; the one I had was so old, but it's a blessing to get a new one today. May God bless my sponsors."*

Our thanks again for helping bring such joy and pleasure to so many children and their families in Uganda.



Kevin



Emmanuel



Above Hariat is with one of her younger siblings enjoying opening their Christmas gifts

Below are some of the children from Coo-rom Bangor Grammar Primary School receiving their Christmas Gifts



# The Transformative Impact of New Life Homes



## Skills for Life

28 boys living at New Life Homes participated in new life-skills training programmes over the last year — opportunities that are already shaping their confidence, self-reliance and future ambitions.

## Bake it till you make it



In Uganda, nearly 90% of families do not own an oven, with most cooking done over outdoor wood fires. You can imagine the excitement when the very first oven arrived in the New Life Homes kitchen!

Eager boys learned to bake cakes, bread, cookies and other savoury treats — and were even more delighted to taste the results.

Before the lessons, 13-year-old Arnold never believed baking was something he could do. "I thought only professional chefs could bake cakes," he admitted. With a grant providing the oven, ingredients and training, Arnold embraced the new opportunity. He has now learned to bake simple cakes, doughnuts and bread, and spends weekends leading practice sessions, ensuring safe oven use and helping younger boys learn.

"I dream of opening a bakery one day," he says confidently.

The training has taught new life skills and the idea to dream for the future.

## Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe!

Learning to mend shoes is an extremely practical skill in Uganda, where many children rely on repairing footwear to make it last. For boys preparing for independent living, this training is invaluable.

Ismail, aged 10, was rescued from the streets earlier this year and found his breakthrough through the shoe repair programme. "I used to fix my own slippers on the streets using wires," he recalls. With proper tools and guidance, he has now mastered the basics and proudly volunteers to repair shoes for other boys.

"I feel useful," he says. "I can earn money doing this."

The project has not only given him a path toward self-reliance but is rebuilding his confidence.

Special thanks to Argon & Co, who have funded these life-skill projects.

To make a donation towards the life-giving work at New Life Homes, visit [Abaana.org/donate](http://Abaana.org/donate) or email [louise@abaana.org](mailto:louise@abaana.org) for more information.



www.abaana.org

## Scripture Union Camps

We love sending the New Life Homes boys to Scripture Union camp every year. They have proven to be a very special time where the boys can deepen their relationship with God, learn about making good choices and meet with other children.

(Pictured below, bottom row, first on the left), **Jovan** gives his testimony: "I am very grateful to God that each time I come for camp I learn something new about God... when I attended high school camps I started being more serious about God. This has helped me to be active at school in the Scripture Union Club where I lead praise and worship."



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

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



## Empowering Girls to Reach their Full Potential

Zuri Girl is our educational programme which focuses on self-esteem and sexual purity for girls and boys, and also menstruation care for girls.

We wanted to share the impact that Zuri has made in the lives of a few of those involved.

*"I thank God that Abaana thought of bringing such a programme to our school. I have witnessed a lot of change among my learners, especially those who have had a chance to attend the clubs - they are so empowered. The boys and girls here are now very sure of who they are and this has brought confidence. Personal hygiene greatly improved, and we don't have so many cases of poor period management as we had before. The girls and boys are more kind to each other because now they understand that body changes are normal and everyone is uniquely made." Mrs Sarah Katalemwa, Strathearn Primary.*



*"I want to thank God that I was among the lucky ones to attend Zuri. I learnt a lot of things, and I am sure if I had not attended Zuri, I would not have progressed to secondary school. Zuri helped me know that God knows me because they taught me many Bible verses that talk about me and I know the Bible is the word of God. I also learnt that the body changes were normal and I only needed to accept and understand how to take care of myself. This has helped me so much because when my body started to change, I developed low self-esteem. I am glad that through Zuri I was empowered. I also learnt that abstinence is very important and I still honour the commitment I made when I signed the Zuri purity card." Deborah, S2*

*"I am glad to have worked with Zuri since it started. Since I work with the children closely as I teach them to sew, I get a lot of feedback from them. First and foremost, the sewing skill is such a blessing to them because it means that when their clothes get some simple issues, they can easily fix them. Also, many girls happen not to be so free speaking with their parents, and some never even tell their parents of their first period. Zuri equips the girls with not only knowledge and skills, but also tools to use. At the end of Zuri, many girls can comfortably make their own pads, and they don't have to use odd pieces of cloth while on their periods. As a woman who was once a young girl, I wish Zuri was extended to every girl because Zuri skills and empowers children in an amazing way. I am very sure children that have had a chance to attend Zuri are so different from others. I thank God Abaana was guided to think of such a wonderful project." Peace Annet, Zuri Tailor*

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@abaana.org](mailto:louise@abaana.org) or visit the website at [abaana.org/ZuriGirl](http://abaana.org/ZuriGirl)**



# Abaana Teams



## Tugunde – Let's Go!

Have you ever wanted to make a difference while experiencing a new culture? Tugunde — meaning “let us go” — is your invitation to step out, serve, and be part of something bigger.

We are welcoming expressions of interest to join an open team travelling to Uganda during the summer months of 2027. Whether you come with practical skills, a heart for people, or simply a willingness to serve, come and find out more.

This is more than a trip — it's a chance to grow, serve, and go together.

**Register your interest today: [abaana.org/teams](https://abaana.org/teams)**



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