



Photo: Charlotte Flowers / Tearfund

TRANSFORMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF KITGUM

The Diocese of Kitgum believe that the local church is a ‘sleeping giant’ that, if awakened, could transform communities throughout Kitgum. Using an approach called Church and Community Transformation (CCT) the Diocese wants to equip every church to begin transforming their community.

CCT transforms individuals and churches through Bible Studies that help people discover their identity as children of God, his purpose for their lives, and the church’s role in their immediate community.

It empowers people to transform their situation using their own God-given resources in a sustainable and holistic way. It motivates churches to engage with their communities, using local knowledge and resources to address local problems and the root causes of poverty. This creates sustainable solutions that are locally owned, and brings about spiritual, economic, social and intellectual transformation.

This project will allow the Diocese of Kitgum to:

- Give individuals the skills they need to improve their livelihoods and reduce poverty
- Provide CCT training to clergy, lay people, and students at the Diocesan Theological College
- Help farmers work together to prepare for natural disasters and respond to climate changes
- Support those living with HIV and provide training to help reduce transmission
- Train communities to advocate with local government to access resources and services



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My name is William and I have been blind since the age of about 10. When I first lost my sight, my mother spent everything she had on doctors fees, but they could not help me. So I grew up at home with just my mother. She found it very difficult because she didn't know how to care for me. I was very lonely because none of our friends or relatives wanted to come to visit me.

Then Laguti church, where I attend started the CCT process. I joined in with some of the bible studies. In one of them, we studied 1 Peter Chapter 2:

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

It helped me to realise that I was a “living stone” and precious to God. It gave me the confidence to change my life. I decided to start going to a technical school even though many people said I wouldn't be able to manage it. I enrolled in a course learning how to use an Electronic Knitting machine. Today, I earn money making clothes to sell.

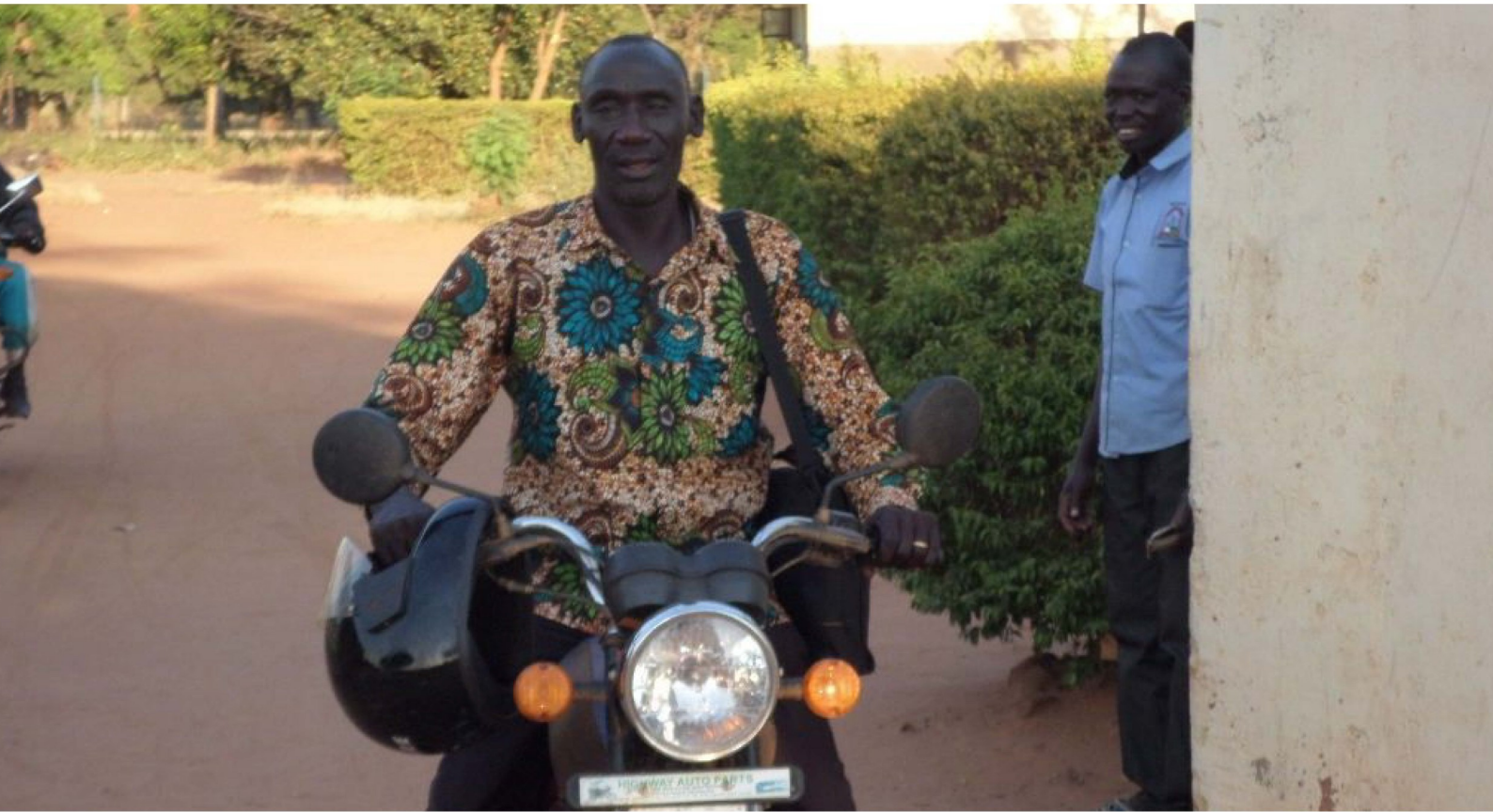


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“Since CCT was introduced in our church we have experienced tremendous change!

At the time we were meeting in a pig barn because our church building did not have a roof. After envisioning, we began mobilising more resources and were able to raise the funds for a new roof. Immediately we moved away from the barn and began meeting and praying in our permanent church building again. The church’s generosity continues with donations worth 5,115,000 USH [almost £1100], which allowed us to fit six new doors and 18 new windows, and pay for the inside to be plastered.

Since we moved out of the pig barn, church membership has tripled, now we have fellowship on Fridays and bible studies every Sunday. Our church leadership is stronger and we have experienced increased giving and tithes.

As an individual, I was able to go back to school for theological training with the support from the church. I finished top of my class in Theological College, and I was made a Canon as well as a lay reader due to my work within the church.

As a family we have continued to work hard and our Cassava farm is doing very well. We have even managed to buy a Bajaj motorcycle, which makes travelling for my ministry much easier. Our children are studying at a high level, and we have built a new house for them.”