



# Uganda River of Life Ministries

## UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Charity No. 1110595

### Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

**UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

## Uganda River of Life Ministries Trustees Report 2023

### 1. Preamble

*Uganda River of Life Ministries (UROLM) is a Charitable Trust. The Governing Document is a Deed dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005, as amended by Deeds of Variation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 & 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016.*

*The Trustees meet at least twice a year. The Trust does not have an office.*

*Correspondence address is 97 The Avenue, Mortimer Common, Reading, RG7 3RB. Web site: [www.riveroflifeuganda.org](http://www.riveroflifeuganda.org), Email: [info@riveroflifeuganda.org](mailto:info@riveroflifeuganda.org)*

*Our Bankers are: HSBC Bank plc, 20-21 Electric Parade, George Lane, South Woodford, London E18 2LX*

*Our Accounts are independently examined by Nigel Rivers, 3 Battlemead Close, Maidenhead, SL6 8LB*

### 2. Trustees

The Trustees for the period January to December 2023 were:

Robert Davies (Chair of Trustees), Margaret Poulter, Maria Warren

New Trustees are identified and appointed by the existing Trustees.

### 3. Summary of objects as set out in the governing document

1. To advance the Christian faith.
2. To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship.

UROLM receives funds from UK donors for the support of River of Life Church (ROLC), Masaka, Uganda, a separately constituted and registered Ugandan church and NGO.

These funds are used to –

1. Spread the gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ.
2. Provide spiritual and material assistance for those in need in the congregation and locality; in particular through Community Outreach, Training and Discipleship, and Prayer and Healing Programmes. The most significant Projects within these Programmes in terms of scope and impact are:
  - 1) Community Outreach – meeting the spiritual and material needs of the most vulnerable within Nyendo, Masaka
  - 2) Kitovu Hospital Neonatal Unit: funding the staffing and ongoing costs of running a Neonatal Unit caring for up to 30 babies a month.
  - 3) The White Eagle Project: providing emergency residential, resettlement and community-based care of up to 30 orphan and vulnerable children, with a particular focus on children who have suffered abuse and neglect.
  - 4) ROL Leadership Academy: providing post-O Level education, mentoring and training schemes for young people from Masaka.
  - 5) Synergy Sports Strategy: uses sport to help young people realise their full potential through training, discipleship and mentoring.
  - 6) Masaka Prayer Mountain: developing a prayer centre on a c.25-acre site just outside Masaka Municipality, Uganda.
  - 7) Mission: the promotion of cross-cultural mission trips, both short and long-term.

### 4. The main activities of UROLM

- Fundraising for the work of River of Life Church (ROLC)
- Mobilising spiritual and material support by implementing a Communications Strategy
- Overseeing the River of Life Missionary Programmes, which facilitates short and long-term visits to River of Life Church in Uganda from the UK.
- Ensuring UROLM is following all good governance guidance, and conforming to best practise in its fundraising and communications.

# UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

## Report of the Trustees

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

Although River of Life Church (Uganda) is fully responsible for its own strategic and operational decisions, advice is sought, and given, by UROLM Trustees for the effective running of River of Life Church. Mary Kibaya (the founder of River of Life Church) and Rob Davies, are members of the Board of River of Life Church, Uganda, whilst Margaret Poulter visits River of Life Church Uganda annually, as travel restrictions permit.

#### **5. Chairman's Report – Rob Davies**

2023 saw UROLM raise £55,718 for the work of River of Life Church in Uganda. 99% of our expenditure of £86,254 was spent on Charitable Activities. Raising this amount of money represents a wonderful achievement, and the Trustees wish to thank and appreciate all the volunteers, supporters and friends of the wider River of Life family for making it possible. We particularly remember with gratitude our former Treasurer, Ian Drake, who left UROLM a substantial legacy in 2021, which has helped the work of River of Life Church significantly.

#### **Governance**

The Trustees met on four occasions via Zoom to review our financial position; plan and implement strategies for Fundraising, Communications, Mission and Governance; identify and mitigate for any areas of risk. They have also met regularly with the Board of River of Life Church over the period. 2023 saw us implement AML and ABC policies and pass our Safeguarding Review with HSBC Bank. Special thanks goes to our Account Relationship Manager who has been fantastic in supporting us rebuild after the loss of our treasurer, Ian.

#### **Fundraising**

Our fundraising has continued to focus on Individuals, Events, Church & School Partnerships, and Trusts. We are indebted to the generosity of a large number of long-term supporters who continue to sponsor children and young people, give extra when the need is greater, and wholeheartedly support the vision and mission of UROLM in its support of the work of ROLC.

The trustees would like to extend their profound appreciation to everyone who has supported the work of River of Life Church financially, and are humbled by the level of sacrificial giving they have seen.

#### **Communications**

Our main form of communication throughout 2023 was through our Facebook Page, and through updates to regular supporters of the White Eagle Project with Manager's & School Reports, handwritten letters and photos for each sponsor. Unfortunately, our website is yet to be rebuilt.

#### **Mission**

We continued to support our Long-term Mission partners, Lisa Meadows and Sarah Beale, both of whom have moved on to new ministries.

#### **6. The work of River of Life Church**

River of Life Church is a registered Ugandan Company, No. 58534. The period saw two new Directors appointed to the board: Stephen Kazibwe and Fred Ssasira. They Mary Kibaya, David Nyongesa, Emily Ojambo, and Rob Davies. As founder, Mary Kibaya acts as the key contact point between the two organisations, and throughout the period was able to take an active role in the Board of Directors and other activities of the church via Zoom, Whatsapp and other online tools. She was also able to visit in September.

The ROLC Board continued to send monthly statements of expenditure under budgeted headings and has sent us audited accounts for 2023. The Trustees remain highly confident in the operational capacity and financial management of the ROLC Team.

#### **Community Outreach Programmes**

ROLC's Community Outreach programme includes weekly visits to the Hospital and Prison, and support to the Kitovu NeoNatal Unit. The main aim of these programmes is to address the immediate and pressing spiritual and material needs of the community.

# UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

## Report of the Trustees

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

**1) Community Outreach** Hospital Ministry made regular visits to Masaka District Referral Hospital, to pray for the sick and to give out fruit, soap and other personal items.

**2) Kitovu Hospital Neonatal Unit Ministry** funds 5 nurses and the development of the Neonatal Unit at Kitovu Hospital, Masaka. In 2023 we were able to provide extra equipment for the unit, which continues to support up to 30 premature babies each month.

#### ***Training and Discipleship Programme***

Three programmes under Training and Discipleship continued in 2023. Overall responsibility for this department rests with Director Emily Ojambo. The main aim of these programmes is to realise real and lasting transformation in people's lives and their communities.

**1) White Eagle Project (WEP).** The WEP provides temporary residential care for severely at-risk children, and community-based care for at-risk children. It does this through (i) supporting Education, (ii) intensive Mentoring, (iii) supporting Health, (iv) promoting a Safe and Secure Home environment and (v) Resettlement and Rehabilitation.

**2) Discipleship Groups:** ROLC has 6 different discipleship groups, these include: Youth Group, The Amazing Generation (young adults group), Marrieds, Women of Honour, Schools Ministry and Children's Church. Each group provides a forum for peer-led discipleship and training.

**3) ROL Leadership Academy** raises up young leaders from Masaka through Leadership Training and Education Bursaries and also gives an opportunity to White Eagle children who show leadership potential to continue their education.

#### ***Prayer and Healing Programme***

The main activity in 2023 was regular Prayer and Worship meetings on Masaka Prayer Mountain, including hosting a monthly Worship Meeting for all the churches in Masaka called "Organic Worship." Although we won the last remaining civil court case associated with the development of c. 25 acres at Masaka Prayer Mountain in 2021, the defendants have appealed and the case is still pending.

#### ***Operations and Mission***

The ROLC Finance Team continued to operate robust financial reporting, cash control mechanisms, requisition and approval processes, budget reporting, and expenditure reporting. Monthly receipts under budgetary headings were supplied to UROLM, together with audited accounts for 2023. In addition to the funds we are able to send them, ROLC raised 93m/= (approx. £20k) through Tithes & Offerings, the Church Farm, and sale of old vehicles, due to be replaced in 2024.

The ROLC Farm progressed well under the stewardship of the Farm Manager, with a large plantation of Eucalyptus being established.

The Church plants in Bujja, a village about 3 miles from Nyendo, and Misaali continued to grow.

## **7. The Future**

2024 will again see us need to strengthen our UK Team to meet the challenges of fundraising for the continued excellent work of River of Life Church.

Over the last 3 years we have been able to send funds to River of Life Church in excess of our income due to the large legacy received in 2021. **This** level of expenditure will need to reduce to match income by the end of 2024.

Increasing the number of core, regular supporters, financial and prayer, is critical for the continued development of UROLM, whilst accessing Trusts and Grants for eligible ministries such as the White Eagle Project and the Leadership Academy is crucial to ensure their ongoing success.

Particular thanks must be expressed to all our donors and friends. Without their support ROLC would be unable to have the impact that it has.

*Rob Davies, UROLM Chairman, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024*

**UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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# UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

## Report of the Trustees

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity	UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES
Charity registration number	1110595
Principal address	97 THE AVENUE MORTIMER COMMON READING RG7 3RB

#### Trustees

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mrs Maria Warren  
Ms Margaret Joan Poulter  
Mr Robert Davies

**Independent examiners:** Nigel Rivers  
3 Battlemead Close  
Maidenhead  
SL6 8LB

**Bankers:** HSBC Bank Plc  
29-21 Electric Parade  
George Lane,  
South Woodford  
London E18 2LX

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by

*Robert Davies*

.....  
Mr Robert Davies, Trustee

Date *28/10/24* .....

**UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

## Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiners statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Nigel Rivers*

.....  
Nigel Rivers  
3 Battlemead Close  
Maidenhead  
SL6 8LB

Date 28/10/24



**UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES**  
**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the Year ended 31st December, 2023**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

		FUNDS 2023			TOTAL FUNDS 2022
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
<b>RECEIPTS :</b>		£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts	2a	10,644	45,143	55,787	56,798
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>10,644</b>	<b>45,143</b>	<b>55,787</b>	<b>56,798</b>
<b>PAYMENTS :</b>					
Charitable Activities	3a	41,377	43,692	85,069	87,145
Raising Funds	3b	1,185	0	1,185	216
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>42,562</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>86,254</b>	<b>87,361</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		<b>-31,918</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>-30,467</b>	<b>-30,563</b>
Fund Transfers					
Balances Brought Forward		56,984	4,871	61,855	92,418
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>25,066</b>	<b>6,322</b>	<b>31,388</b>	<b>61,855</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total at 31/12/23	Total at 31/12/22
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>ASSETS</b>				
HSBC Current Account	24,018	0	24,018	57,053
HSBC Deposit Account	0	7,370	7,370	4,871
	<b>24,018</b>	<b>7,370</b>	<b>31,388</b>	<b>61,924</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts examination			480	480

**TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 2011. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a receipts & payments account and statement of assets & liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 28/10/24 and

Signed on their behalf by Robert Davies, Robert Davies, Chairman

# UGANDA RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the Year ended 31st December, 2023

### 1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts have been prepared under the "Receipts and Payments" basis as prescribed by the Char

### 2. RECEIPTS

	FUNDS 2023			TOTAL FUNDS 2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
<b>a) Voluntary Receipts</b>				
Non Gift Aid donations	420	15,267	15,687	11,396
Gift Aid Donations	3,989	29,876	33,865	39,068
GASDS Donations	0	0	0	0
Income Tax Recovered	6,136	0	6,136	6,325
Interest	98	0	98	9
	<b>10,644</b>	<b>45,143</b>	<b>55,787</b>	<b>56,798</b>

### 3. PAYMENTS

		FUNDS 2023			TOTAL FUNDS 2022
	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£	£	£	£
<b>a) Charitable Activities</b>					
Grants to Institutions in Uganda:					
ROLC Operations & expenses		16,615	13,334	29,949	27,258
White Eagle Children's Project		9,173	15,453	24,626	32,313
Community Health & Outreach:					
Community Outreach		259	1,920	2,179	1,930
Kitovu Baby Unit		4,914	2,700	7,614	8,416
Synergy Sports			2,585	2,585	2,197
Bujja Farm development		1,853	0	1,853	773
Discipleship Groups		872	0	872	1,098
Leadership Academy		1,738	3,560	5,298	5,620
Prayer Mountain		1,493	504	1,997	1,403
Missions expenses		1,967	0	1,967	0
Grants to Individuals in Uganda/UK:					
ROL Church Director		125	0	125	0
Missionary (contract ROLSB11101)		1,164	3,036	4,200	4,200
Missionary (contract ROLLM16401)		587	600	1,187	1,187
Bank & Transfer Charges		302	0	302	336
Phone calls, postage & software		0	0	0	0
Insurance & Subscriptions		315	0	315	414
Consultancy & examination		0	0	0	0
		<b>41,377</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>85,069</b>	<b>87,145</b>

#### b) Raising Funds

Website development & maintenance	0	0	0	0
Publishing expenses	0	0	0	0
Fundraising expenses	1,185	0	1,185	216
Travel	0	0	0	0
	<b>1,185</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>216</b>

#### 4. PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Reimbursement of expenses:

Postage	0
TOTAL	0

#### 5. INSURANCE

In accordance with a provision in the Constitution of the Trust, Trustee Indemnity insurance has been ef

#### 6. RISK ASSESSMENT

As the Trust does not own any tangible property, nor does it undertake projects in its own right, the main risks to which it is exposed concern remittances going astray or being mis-applied with the consequent risk of adverse publicity and blame by either or both supporters and intended beneficiaries. It seeks to address these risks by using proprietary financial institutions to hold and transfer funds, requiring regular detailed reports from beneficiaries, and trustee visits to supported projects.

#### 7. RESERVES POLICY

The Objects of the Trust are to advance the Christian Faith and to relieve persons who are in conditions of need and hardship. It does this by making Grants for specific activities and projects but without entering into ongoing legal contracts.

It does not own, rent or lease any premises or equipment. In this sense it only distributes funds which are already in hand, and has no need to set aside Funds in Reserve.

However, recognising that certain of the projects which Uganda River of Life Ministries supports have come to rely substantially upon this support, the abrupt withdrawal of which may cause considerable disruption and hardship, but mindful also of both the pressing and immediate need for which the Funds have been raised and that there may be future uncertainties in fundraising, the Trust seeks, over a period of time, to accumulate modest Reserves equivalent to three months' current expenditure.

#### 8. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.