
Phyllis Hall to Uganda

East Africa

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Happy New Year!

2017 has been one of the best years in our Soroti Orphan Assistance Project (SOAP). Let me remind you that we are a church planting team currently consisting of one married couple, Alan and Elena Sutphen, and five single ladies, Debbie Guimon, Linda Green, Pamela Wieler, Kerri Phillips, and me. The ministries of SOAP include the church in Soroti, village churches pastored by national pastors, preaching points, Bible Institute, medical and relief ministries, men's ministries, ladies' ministries, children's ministries, youth ministries, educational/vocational assistance to our orphans who have finished primary school, and the Independent Baptist Primary School, a boarding school for orphans.

2016 was one of the hardest years for our team at SOAP. Perhaps you remember that some missionary and national team members had medical challenges and we restructured during the last term of that year. For Uganda, unlike the USA school year that is August/September through May, the school year runs February through the first week of December with three terms. We started 2017 understaffed, and the government had announced that they were inspecting schools in 2017. We were still able to take about nine new orphans, but first term was very hard and exhausting.

When second term started, we were getting stronger. Alan Sutphen "stepped up to the plate" as our new director and found new teachers and started meeting with government officials to make sure we were meeting their often strange requirements. Many schools were closed, but not ours! Bible institutes were held, new ladies', men's and children's ministries were added, and we were able to do much needed famine relief. The new teachers were fitting in well at school, and a spirit of unity and cheerfulness was affecting us all! We finished strong third term, which saw many of our new orphans saved, many baptisms at the Soroti and village churches, and some of our own secondary orphans organized a youth conference at our church. I am looking forward to our old orphans returning for school this year, and we hope to get about ten more new ones.

My niece organized a family reunion at the end of this year and I was able to go to the States for some weeks and see family. I now have nine grandchildren! I returned to Uganda January 1, New Year's Day. Please pray as our Ugandan BIMI missionaries have a conference at the end of this month right before school starts the first Monday in February. Go-Team-Go!

2018- Even So, Come Lord Jesus!

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