

Phyllis Hall to Uganda

East Africa



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Defend the Fatherless

We have gotten to the end of term one at Independent Baptist School (IBS), our Soroti Orphan Assistance Project (SOAP) boarding school for double orphans. We were able to take nine new orphans this year, and over half of them have already received Christ!

When we first started to take children in 2004 for the 2005 school year, our very first orphans were orphaned as a result of the rebel Joseph Kony who was very active in the area at that time. Ecweru Musa, who was the commander of the Arrow Boys (a militia fighting the rebels) rescued our first orphans and gave them to our director, Kyle Guimon (now in heaven) and his wife, Debbie. The youngest orphan, Ekeu Vincent, was eight months old at the time. Debbie Guimon just returned to Soroti in January to work with us here on the field. Her good friend Ecweru Musa, who is now a high official in the government (Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees), came to visit Debbie and IBS in March. This important government official took time out of his busy schedule to see us!

Minister Ecweru arrived late in the afternoon when school was over and the teachers were gone. The minister came alone, quietly, without his entourage of other important officials and even his body guards. All our children gathered in the auditorium and did a short program of singing and saying Bible verses that our headmistress, Pamela Wieler, had organized. After this and a welcome speech from our house parent, Okurut Paul, Minister Ecweru addressed the children and told the story of rescuing Vincent and bringing him and his older siblings to Kyle and Debbie. Vincent is now in Primary Level 7 and will be taking his Primary Leaving Exam (PLE) this year, and the minister was moved to tears as he was reunited with the "baby" he saved. It was a very personal and private time. The minister then toured our facility and bought all the children sodas to have with their supper that night. Ecweru was very pleased with our school – that we have good facilities and have hired many Ugandan teachers and use Ugandan curriculum. This was a special time for all of us.

Here is a quick update on prayer requests. You will remember that I have been asking prayer as we have been trying to restructure our school to meet all the new demands that the Ministry of Education is now requiring of private schools. The Kampala office is still delaying our licensing – six times now; they have wanted "one more thing." It is an 8/9 hour journey to the Kampala office! Our director has traveled there today to try again. More private schools have recently been closed in Soroti town. I personally know of some teachers that were put in jail because they continued to teach at a closed school! We have still not been inspected yet, so please continue to pray that the local inspectors will come soon and will be pleased with our school like Minister Ecweru was.

Also, please continue to pray for my two weekly Bible studies and a wife I am counseling/discipling regularly who had been having problems in her marriage. I am so encouraged. I have spoken to her husband who is so glad I am discipling his wife. And they have now both said that divorce is not an option and that they are both committed to their marriage. Also, I am trying to start some additional ladies' Bible studies in some of our church plants, and it looks like I might get an opportunity to get into the prison to evangelize (this is very "tricky"). Prayer makes the difference!

Do Justice to the Afflicted (from Psalm 82:3)

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