

*And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick*

*Luke 9:2*

**Dear Praying Friends,**

**December 2022**

As we draw near to Christmas, we thank you all again for your faithful prayers and support as we continue in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ here in Soroti, Uganda.

**AS WE APPROACH THE LAST WEEKS OF 2022**, we have many blessings to be thankful for: numerous salvation decisions and even more baptisms, a new church building, a vocational school program, and many more. I am not one to publish numbers, Elena and I are in Uganda to serve the Lord Jesus, but we acknowledge these many blessings and give all the praise to the Lord Jesus who has provided them and allows us to temporarily steward them for His glory.

**IN NOVEMBER, my right-hand man, Paul**, was ordained as a pastor into the ministry. He had been preparing a long time, and despite two Covid shutdowns, and being extremely busy with construction projects, he managed to complete his Bible doctrines course and make it through his ordination examination via four local pastors. It was a happy day for Paul and his family was very proud, and I welcome him as a fellow servant in ministering to his people both in the church and SOAP ministries.

**SOLOMON:** I was discipling a young man, Solomon, for several months this year, but he asked no questions and did not appear curious about the Bible. I asked if he was truly "saved," and he insisted that he was. A few weeks ago, after Pastor Paul had preached, Solomon later came to him asking how to be saved. Paul explained salvation by faith alone, Solomon understood and truly received Christ as his Savior! He is now a new creature in Christ! When we resume discipleship studies, I expect to be teaching a believer who will now be hungry for God's word! How many people are just like Solomon, believing they are "right with God" when in reality they are wandering through life utterly lost. **2Cor 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...**

**ENDEAVORS OF FORMER SOAP ORPHANS:**

**Ebiru Joseph:** This coming February, Ebiru will be entering his final year in Bible College in Kampala. We rejoice on how far he has progressed over the years, and we see him as a great soul winner and future church planter in the surrounding areas of Soroti.

**Asio Betty:** This month, Asio will be finishing up her nursing education after many years of schooling since her departure from SOAP. She has worked very hard and has maintained her testimony. She is another success story of the ministry, and we trust the Lord will use her greatly for His glory!

**JOSEPHINE AND REBECCA:** As many pastors and missionaries will understand, some people who make a profession of faith, and are baptized, can appear uninterested or even disappear as we encourage them to attend discipleship studies. We thank the Lord that this has not been the case with these two ladies. Both were featured in our last letter and have been very faithful with their studies. We are thankful for their fidelity in their lessons as some, unfortunately, are not so.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- For salvation of many more souls through the SOAP ministry as we enter 2023.
- Healing for one of our teachers, Catherine 29 y/o, who has Neuroendocrine tumor (cancer).
- Successful discipleship of Solomon, Rebecca, Josephine, and many others.
- That our multiple construction projects will be completed before school begins in February.

**Have a blessed Christmas as we remember the most wonderful gift: the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

**Galatians 4:4-5** *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

**ALAN AND ELENA SUTPHEN  
UGANDA, EAST AFRICA**



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MISSIONARIES TO  
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**THE  
SUTPHENS**

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*Luke 9:2*



**PASTOR OKURUT JOHN PAUL**



**THE NEW CHURCH INTERIOR**