



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

*Luke 9:2*

**Dear Praying Friends,**

**December 2023**

We thank you for your faithful prayers and support for us all these years of service for the Lord Jesus Christ in Soroti, Uganda.

**Furlough:** As the year 2023 ends, it brings with it the conclusion of our furlough. We have had meetings with our supporting churches every Sunday since August 27<sup>th</sup>. Our main goal was to be a blessing to them in sharing how the Lord has been working in Soroti, with many people making professions of faith and being disciplined while we have been away. On December 31<sup>st</sup> we will depart the US and get back to the work of the ministry in Soroti, Uganda.

**Witnessing to Family:**

In our last prayer letter, I spoke of a planned meeting with my aunt and cousin, in Urbana, IL, who I had not seen for 17 years. Many were praying that this opportunity to witness to them would go well. I explained how my cousin, Sylvia, had sustained a paralyzing injury to her spine and is now wheelchair bound. As we entered her hospital room during our visit my aunt made a comment about the governor of Florida. This seemed to incite my cousin, and she went on a one-hour rant against all Republicans, conservatives, and many things political! She didn't let me get a word in and Elena and I were quite disappointed! I hadn't seen Sylvia in a long time, and I knew she and my aunt were diehard liberals, but what we saw and heard was completely unanticipated. When she was finished, she announced visiting hours were over and that we would have to leave.

Walking out of the hospital with my aunt Charlotte, I expressed to her that we could have discussed many other things besides politics, but she gave no explanation. So, I sent Sylvia and my aunt an 8-page letter sharing and explaining the Gospel in detail, complete with verse references. I made it clear that no politician will save them or make their lives significantly better. Only putting their faith in Christ, believing that He died for their sins, would save them from judgement in the Lake of Fire. As of now, I have not heard from them.

**The Battle:**

Those of us with unsaved family will understand this battle. It is probably the most difficult of witnessing endeavors, as emotion and feelings are often involved. We must remember that this is not a battle against flesh and blood, but a spiritual one, **Eph 6:12**. If I could twist Sylvia's arm for her to be saved I would do so, but I cannot. I may never see her again, so I can pray. I will pray for Sylvia and my aunt Charlotte, that they one day their eyes will be opened and will call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. **Romans 10:13** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**Prayer Requests:**

- Salvation of souls in Soroti outreach ministries and clinics in Uganda.
- Safety and health for our children as we again part ways next week.
- Salvation for my aunt Charlotte and my cousin Sylvia.
- For our future ministry goals to be achieved this next term in Uganda.
- The safe return of the SOAP orphans in January for the 2024 school term.

May you all have a blessed and prosperous New Year!

**Matthew 1:21 (KJV)** *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

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