

Soroti BIBLE SCHOOL

P.O. Box 402, Soroti, Uganda, East Africa

Annual Report – January to December 2022



‘...to provide quality Bible teaching and theological training to all disciples of Jesus Christ who seek it.’

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SOROTI BIBLE SCHOOL is an interdenominational Bible school based in Soroti, Uganda. It seeks to provide quality Bible teaching and theological training to all disciples of Jesus Christ who seek it.

SOROTI BIBLE SCHOOL is an initiative of Soroti School of Business Ltd, which provides facilities, funding and administration support to help develop the work of Soroti Bible School.

SOROTI BIBLE SCHOOL is part of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) program of Soroti School of Business Ltd.

SOROTI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS is based on a 12-acre campus south of Soroti city and offers nationally accredited Certificate and Diploma programmes in business management and administration, accounting and finance, records and information management, marketing and secretarial studies. It has a centre number UBB269 with the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB). It has two intakes a year – March and August.

For more information go to www.sorotischoolofbusiness.com

Vision, Mission and Objectives

The vision of Soroti Bible School is to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to know more of God and His Word.

The mission of Soroti Bible School is to provide quality Bible teaching and theological training, practical and vocational skills and opportunities for personal and character development, to disciples of Jesus Christ.

The objectives of Soroti Bible School are to:

- ❖ Provide Bible teaching and theological training at Certificate, Diploma and eventually Degree and Masters' levels from its campus in Soroti.
- ❖ Develop other study centres in order to make its training available from a variety of accessible locations. These centres will be developed alongside a programme of providing training through distance learning and other methods of delivery, as appropriate.
- ❖ Support church planting and partner with other organisations to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to those identified as unreached people groups.
- ❖ Develop practical and vocational training skills and other programmes, as appropriate.



Report on the Year 2022 – Principal

Like most academic institutions and centres of learning in Uganda, Soroti Bible School and its host institution Soroti School of Business was in a period of recovery during the year 2022. The lack of O and A level candidates sitting in October 2021 had an impact on the numbers of students that the business school could recruit for its March 2022 intake and this had an impact on the support and focus that Soroti School of Business could give to the development of Soroti Bible School. It also emerged in 2022 that Soroti Bible School had been deleted from the Updated National NGO Register (UNNR), an exercise that was done by the NGO Bureau of Uganda in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, 2022 was again a year of delay for the development of Soroti Bible School. Following an event in November 2021 hosted by the Theological Education Group of North East Uganda (TEGNEU), it became clear to us that Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST) did not have the required registration from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) to open a regional study centre in Soroti in its name.

It is regrettable and very unfortunate that Soroti Bible School spent so much time and effort trying to develop a partnership with a Kampala-based organisation that did not let us know it did not have the requirements to develop the partnership that we had hoped for. It is also regrettable that the forum TEGNEU did not investigate the credentials of KEST at the time when KEST was addressing a meeting of TEGNEU about the issue of NCHE registration when KEST did not have this registration.

Following our decision to abandon trying to establish any partnership with KEST, Soroti Bible School has immediately begun to look for another academic partner who can support our work and accredit the courses that we wish to offer. By the end of 2022, it was clear that that academic partner could be African Renewal University (AfRU), a Kampala based institution with full NCHE registration that has a well-developed outreach programme to open regional study centres.

It is our prayer for 2023 that we will be able to establish a strong partnership with Africa Renewal University and finally see accredited theological training being offered in Soroti.

Pastor Patrick Orotin
Principal, Soroti Bible School S

Objective for 2022	Achievement
Secure an academic partnership with Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST) and reorganize the engagement event with them and begin to deliver their informal programs as part of a series of conferences to pastors in Soroti.	Soroti Bible School abandoned trying to establish a partnership with KEST, as it failed to demonstrate that it had the necessary qualifications from NCHE to create such a partnership.
Restore Soroti Bible School to the Updated National NGO Register (UNNR) as Soroti Bible School was deleted from the UNNR without its knowledge during a review undertaken in 2020.	Soroti Bible School has prepared its file to the NGO Bureau and expects to be restored to the UNNR in due course.
Open a bank account for Soroti Bible School to confirm its identify as a separate financial entity.	A bank account has now been opened by Soroti Bible School with Centenary Bank – Soroti Branch.

Report on the Year 2022 – Director of Outreach

It was in November 2022 that the team of Soroti Bible School was able to welcome to Soroti Eli Fader and his colleague Anthony, who run a Bible school in a refugee camp at Adjumani, on the border between Uganda and South Sudan. Eli and Anthony shared with our team the details of how they organize and run their theological training for pastors in Adjumani. They have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Africa Renewal University (AfRU) that underpins this partnership.

It became clear in that meeting that the arrangement between Eli and his team and AfRU was the model that would suit the needs and expectations of Soroti Bible School as we try to develop theological training for pastors in Soroti.

The key issues for Soroti Bible School is that the courses offered by AfRU are properly and formally accredited by an institution that has full registration with the NCHE. This will make our outreach to pastors much easier to get their interest in the training we are offering, as pastors want their theological training and qualifications to be properly recognised by the education system of Uganda.

Establishing contact with another theological school in Uganda which is doing Theological Training by Extension (TEE) is a major step forward for Soroti Bible School in achieving its mission and objectives.



Pastor John Onyao
Director of Outreach, Soroti Bible School S

Report on the Year 2022 – Director of Strategy & Resources

It became clear in the opening months of 2022 that the partnership we had hoped to achieve with Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST) was not the direction that Soroti Bible School wanted to take in achieving its objectives. We need an academic partner who understands the significance that pastors put on the academic value and status of their qualifications and who take seriously the requirements of academic registration.

It was very pleasing for us to be able to establish contact in 2022 with Africa Renewal University (AfRU) and to know that they had the accreditation that was necessary to give pastors confidence in the documents they would ultimately graduate with from Soroti Bible School. We wanted to know first-hand what it was like to run an institution that had a memorandum of understanding with AfRU. The meeting we had in November 2022 with Eli Fader and his colleague was able to confirm to us that Soroti Bible School could meet the necessary requirements of AfRU to accredit courses offered at Soroti Bible School, initially at certificate level.

We therefore intend to visit their campus in the early months of 2023 and then have a visit from them by the middle of next year, to inspect our site and agree a MoU so that, finally, Soroti Bible School can begin to deliver accredited teaching.

Soroti Bible School is hosted by Soroti School of Business and the relationship between these two schools will hopefully be made clear as part of the academic partnership with AfRU. The intention will be that business students at Soroti School of Business will be invited to study some theological subjects, alongside their business studies, and graduate with at least a certificate of proficiency in Christian studies, as well as their UBTEB qualifications.

Despite the many set-backs and delays that Soroti Bible School has experienced, it now feels like we are beginning to bring together all the key elements to fulfill the mission, vision and objectives of Soroti Bible School



Mark Palin
Director of Strategy and Resources, Soroti Bible School S

Objective for 2022	Achievement
❖ Seek to integrate the management structure and administration of Soroti Bible School more clearly into that of Soroti School of Business, while also maintaining a clear and distinctive identity and governance structure for Soroti Bible School as an indigenous NGO.	This has now been achieved, with full administration and financial support being provided by Soroti School of Business as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) role in developing Soroti Bible School.

What we aim to achieve in 2023

- ❖ Agree and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Africa Renewal University (AfRU) for the accreditation of certificate-level qualifications that will be delivered to students of Soroti School of Business and to pastors and other relevant students.
- ❖ Develop the online presence of Soroti Bible School as part of the website of Soroti School of Business, including the possibility of online learning with Soroti Bible School.
- ❖ Facilitate a site visit by AfRU to formalize the role of Soroti Bible School as a regional study centre for AfRU, beginning at certificate level.
- ❖ Deliver accredited certificate courses in the name of Soroti Bible School that have been agreed and accredited by AfRU.
- ❖ Begin the work of renewing the Operating Permit of Soroti Bible School with the NGO Bureau of Uganda, as it expires in November 2024.

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Soroti Bible School is hosted by Soroti School of Business, which is located in Opuyo, south of Soroti city on the Mbale Road, behind Rhema High School.

