

Soroti BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Annual Report – January to December 2021



‘...to provide quality Bible teaching and theological training, practical and vocational skills and opportunities for personal and character development, to disciples of Jesus Christ.’



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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 2021 – Principal

The image on the front of this annual report captures the year that Soroti Bible School has had, as once again Covid 19 served to delay and frustrate the implementation on our plans. A key event was planned to be held, engaging at least 100 pastors to attend, between Soroti Bible School and Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST) on Saturday, June 12. This event had taken several months to organize, facilitating and organising both pastors and personal from KEST to attend.

Less than a week before the event was due to take place, Uganda was again put into lockdown for large events and conferences, as part of the on-going fight against the spread of the corona virus, Covid 19. A new strain of the virus had been identified and was having a much greater impact in 2021 than the previous variants of the virus that spread in 2020. The second lockdown in Uganda, again impacting on all institutions of learning and schools, lasted from the beginning of June to the start of November 2021, taking up nearly half of the whole year.

We continued in 2021 to plough the ground and sow the seeds of Soroti Bible School, as best as we could in spite of the restrictions on our activities. A number of key aims that we had set for ourselves in 2021 were not able to be achieved because of the impact of Covid 19.

However, we remained convinced that the work of Soroti Bible School should go ahead and will bring real and lasting benefit to a wide range of pastors in this part of Uganda. Some progress was made, through the Theological Education Group of North East Uganda, which had a meeting just as the lockdown was lifted, and work has progressed in other areas. Soroti Bible School remains committed to pushing its mission and vision forward in 2022, especially an academic partnership with KEST. **S**

Pastor Patrick Orotin Principal, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2021	Achievement
Hold a combined launch event and engagement event with Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST) to engage with stakeholders on both the launch of the school and a partnership with KEST in Soroti	An event was planned and funded to take place on Saturday, June 12 but regretfully Uganda went into its second lockdown on June 4, 2021.
Again seek to recruit members of the board of Soroti Bible School, so that its governance can be implemented in line with its approved Constitution.	The June 4 event was to be used to recruit key board members but the event sadly did not go ahead.
Continue our involvement in the Theological Education Group of North East Uganda to learn best practice from other institutions that will work in developing Soroti Bible School .	A key meeting of the TEGNEU was due to be held the day before the KEST engagement event but this too had to be cancelled.

Report on the Year 2021 – Director of Outreach

While 2021 was again a year of frustration and delay for Soroti Bible School, a lot of outreach and engagement activity took place with pastors and church leaders. The feedback was very positive about the role that Soroti Bible School can play in supporting and developing the skills and educational development of pastors in Soroti.

It was particularly encouraging to hear from a broad cross-section of leaders and pastors, including from the Church of Uganda., Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) and the Baptist churches of Teso. The need for good theological training and basic skills development and leadership development is clear across all streams of churches, with the demand that this be offered locally, at a reasonable cost and is part of an accredited and recognised program.

Despite not being able to meet many of the pastors in person, contact was made with more than 100 pastors by phone and text message, who expressed strong interest in attending the June 12, 2021 event between Soroti Bible School and Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST).

A meeting of the Theological Education Group of North East Uganda held in November 2021 helped Soroti Bible School understand at a deep level the key differences between informal and accredited theological education and the pathway that needs to be taken to offer formal accredited Certificate and Diploma programs in Soroti.

A key aim of 2022 will be to secure an academic partnership that will allow Soroti Bible School to be the umbrella organisation that hosts a study centre for such accredited programs to be available in Soroti. **S**

Pastor John Onyao
Director of Outreach, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2021	Achievement
To deliver a programme of engagement to develop Soroti Bible School to ensure key stakeholders are involved in future plans and development.	The November meeting of the TEGNEU was a significant milestone for Soroti Bible School.
Collaborate with Soroti School of Business to develop a joint program of management training for pastors, especially in the skills of financial management, strategic management, human resource management and project management.	This was unable to go ahead as Soroti School of Business was also closed in the second lockdown.
Seek to hold at least one event or conference where the materials developed by Soroti Bible School can be used as the basis for training of some pastors on a trial basis.	This was also unable to be progressed due to lockdown restrictions.

Report on the Year 2021 – Director of Strategy & Resources

Soroti School of Business experienced two lockdowns due to Covid 19 since it opened, with no Candidates for O or A level examinations sitting in October/November 2021. This will mean there will be few students joining the school in 2022, which will generate the revenue needed to support Soroti Bible School.

In spite of this, Soroti School of Business remains committed to supporting the development and resources of Soroti Bible School and it is recognised that the development of successful theological education in Soroti will be more of a marathon than a sprint.

A few issue now for Soroti Bible School is to achieve an academic partnership with an established and accredited institution and we hope to achieve this in 2022. Once that partnership has been formalized, it will give the broad structure and shape of the programs that Soroti Bible School can deliver to support its vision, mission and objectives. **S**

Mark Palin
Director of Strategy and Resources, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2021	Achievement
Agree appropriate levels of funding and support from Soroti School of Business in 2021 for the development of Soroti Bible School.	The board of Soroti School of Business did not meet in 2021, again due to Covid 19 lockdown and restrictions, but support for the development of Soroti Bible School has been forthcoming during 2021.

What we aim to achieve in 2022

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Open a bank account for Soroti Bible School to confirm its identify as a separate financial entity

Contact Information

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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.

