

Soroti BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Annual Report – January to December 2023



‘...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 eight-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 2023 – Principal

The Year 2023 can truly be seen as the beginning of the breakthrough for Soroti Bible School, after so many years of delays and frustration caused by Covid-10 and the aftermath of the two lockdowns caused by this global pandemic.

It was in 2023 that we finally found the academic partner who we had been seeking for so long, this academic partner being Africa Renewal University (AfRU).

It is therefore with great delight that I am able to report that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AfRU was exchanged in 2023, that has marked the beginning of what we know will be a fruitful and beneficial relationship between Soroti Bible School and this esteemed Kampala-based Christian university.

AfRU is accredited by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and therefore has the necessary accreditation nationally to develop a regional study centre in eastern Uganda, based at our campus in central Soroti. AfRU offers Certificate, Diploma, Degrees and Masters programmes at their campus in western Kampala and so have the foundation that will help Soroti Bible School to build on for the benefit of students in this part of Uganda.

Our aim in our partnership with AfRU is two-fold – to offer their accredited Certificate and Diploma courses to students in Soroti and also to develop a course for business students at Soroti School of Business, our hosting institution, that will allow business students to also get a basic theological education. We have now developed a Certificate of Proficiency in Christian Studies for these business students, while also sensitizing pastors and other interested people in the introduction of AfRU's Certificate in Christian Ministry. This latter course is specifically targeted at pastors and so it is will great excitement that we expect to see our first pastors studying this course at Soroti Bible School, knowing that it is accredited by a Kampala-based university.

The photograph on the front page of this Annual Report was taken at Lake Kyogo, the lake of welcome, here in Teso. It shows the sun shining through the clouds. After a long period of preparation, anticipation, false starts, frustration and delay, this is the picture of where we think Soroti Bible School is now. By the grace of God, and for His glory, we believe the next five years of Soroti Bible School will see the school achieving its mission and its vision, for the benefit of pastors and other students.



Pastor Patrick Orotin
Principal, Soroti Bible School S

Objective for 2023	Achievement
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.	A MoU with AfRU was signed in 2023, securing an excellent academic partner for Soroti Bible School, which we know will benefit both pastors and other students in Soroti.

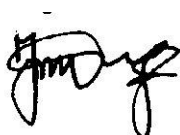
Report on the Year 2023 – Director of Outreach

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed a team from Africa Renewal University (AfRU) to inspect our facilities in Soroti. There was an immediate connection of vision and purpose which we know will provide the foundation from which we can build a strong and lasting partnership.

The work of outreach to potential students of Soroti Bible School began in earnest in 2023, including contact with various pastors in networks across Soroti and with the regional overseer of the Born-Again Churches in this part of Uganda. Our outreach programme including making some radio announcements and establishing the level of interest amongst pastors and church leaders about the sorts of education and training that Soroti Bible School is able to offer going forward. Our outreach work has demonstrated to us that there is a huge desire for good, accredited and professionally-delivered theological education, delivered alongside other programmes that would support pastors in understanding financial management, project management and basic ICT skills.

Alongside the outreach work done by Soroti Bible School directly, our host institution Soroti School of Business has been delivering its own outreach to O and A level candidates in secondary schools, with 20 school visited and nearly 3,000 candidates seen at its school-based marketing events. These events include explaining to candidates that coming to Soroti School of Business gives them the option to studying with Soroti Bible School and achieving a Certificate of Proficiency in Christian Studies. It was so encouraging to see this programme begin to be delivered to existing students of Soroti School of Business in 2023, where it was enthusiastically received by business students.

After a long period of promise and preparation, Soroti Bible School now has the foundation on which to build an exciting programme of theological education that will be of benefit to a huge number of people in this part of Uganda.



Pastor John Onyao
Director of Outreach, Soroti Bible School S

Objective for 2023	Achievement
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.	Soroti Bible School now has pages on the website of our host organisation and online learning with Soroti Bible School will now be developed in the coming year.
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.	A successful visit by AfRU resulted in an exchange of MoU that is now forming the basis of our academic partnership with them.
Deliver accredited certificate courses in the name of Soroti Bible School that have been agreed and accredited by AfRU.	Delivery of AfRU materials began with business students this year and will be further developed in 2024.

Report on the Year 2023 – Director of Strategy and Resources

The first five years of the life of Soroti Bible School have been a mixed journey of hope, frustration, perseverance and break-through. The lockdowns of Covid-19 came within six months of Soroti Bible School receiving its Operating Permit from the Uganda NGO Bureau and any momentum that was achieved in getting our license to operate was quickly lost by the long delays caused by lockdown.

Soroti Bible School is hosted and supported by Soroti School of Business and this business school experienced the same frustrations of all education institutions in Uganda, as it was necessary to protect students from the potentially fatal dangers of a virus that caused a global pandemic.

It was equally frustrating to have spent so much time and effort trying to develop an academic partnership with a Kampala-based school that did not have the necessary accreditation to open a regional study centre in Soroti.

Now that we are seeking another five-year Operating Permit, Soroti Bible School believes passionately that the next five years will be far more fruitful than its initial five years. The ground has been cleared, the foundations on which we are building are deep and strong, and the knowledge we have earned over the last five years will not be wasted. We now have a clear way forward, both for pastors and other church leaders who are so hungry for good theological education, and for business students who have so eagerly attended Soroti Bible School sessions at Soroti School of Business, even as they are studying their business courses.

The requirements for renewing our Operating Permit now include compliance on financial intelligence and the protection of personal data that we collect as part of our work. These requirements will be met, as we seek another five years to begin to see the real break-through in what we are trying to achieve.



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

Objective for 2023	Achievement
Begin the work of renewing the Operating Permit of Soroti Bible School with the NGO Bureau of Uganda, as it expires in November 2024.	The file for the renewal of our Operating Permit will be submitted to the Uganda NGO Bureau in around August 2024, so that we remain compliant with all requirements to operate as an NGO within the laws of Uganda.

What we aim to achieve in 2024

- ❖ Be granted another Five-Year Operating Permit from the Uganda NGO Bureau
- ❖ Make the Certificate of Proficiency in Christian Studies available online through the Soroti Bible School pages of the website of Soroti School of Business
- ❖ Develop a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the development of Soroti Bible School from 2024-2029
- ❖ Explore the opportunities of providing Mature Entry support to pastors and other church leaders who did not manage to reach Senior 4 but who wish to begin studies at Certificate level with Soroti Bible School
- ❖ Develop further the relationship between Soroti Bible School and Soroti School of Business, to ensure the most extensive theological education possible is offered as an option to Certificate and Diploma students studying their business courses

Contact Information

Pastor Patrick Orotin
Principal
Soroti Bible School
0772826869
Orotinp@yahoo.com

Pastor John Onyao
Director of Outreach
Soroti Bible School
0773713621
johnonyao@yahoo.com

Mark Palin
Director of Strategy and Resources
Soroti Bible School
0789827998
mark.palin66@gmail.com

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.

