

Soroti BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Annual Report – January to December 2019



— ‘...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) programme 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 2019 – Principal

The idea of developing a program of training for pastors in Soroti has been held by many people for a very long time. It has been clear that many pastors and other people want to be trained in theology and Bible knowledge and have lacked the opportunity or the means to do so. Some pastors, including myself, who was trained in Zambia more than 20 years ago, have come home to Soroti with a deep longing in their hearts that such a facility could be made available here in Soroti.

So, it is hugely exciting that Soroti Bible School has finally arrived! After many setbacks and challenges, we thank the LORD that we have finally achieved our goal of creating a school that will aim to meet the training needs of pastors.

We are grateful to Soroti School of Business for hosting Soroti Bible School and providing the resources to help register and develop the school. Soroti Bible School has ambitious aims of offering accredited Certificate and Diploma programs and will seek at an appropriate time an academic partnership with an established college, so that programs that are only currently available in other places may be able to be delivered from Soroti, maximizing the opportunities and minimizing the costs to pastors who struggle to fund their studies.

Now that we have achieved registration status with the National NGO Bureau, have set our Constitution and received our Operating Permit, we know we have begun an exciting journey and pray that by God's grace we can fulfil the ambitious objectives we have set for ourselves. **S**

Pastor Patrick Orotin
Principal, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2019	Achievement
To develop a Constitution for Soroti Bible School, which should include its Vision, Mission and Objectives, through a programme of engagement with pastors and key stakeholders.	Written and ready to be presented to the board of Soroti Bible School, once it has been appointed.
To begin the development of the governance structures of Soroti Bible School which will oversee its work and ensure transparency and accountability.	A draft structure has been developed and will be further developed by the board that will be appointed.
To secure registration as an Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and be granted a five-year Operating Permit from the Uganda NGO Bureau.	A five-year Operating Permit and Certificate of Registration has now been issued by the NGO Bureau.

Report on the Year 2019 – Director of Outreach

A lot of time was spent in 2019 bringing pastors and leaders from across Teso region together to understand the need and expectation for Bible teaching and training. Many hours of discussion were held, to help us understand what the shape and work of a new Bible school in Soroti could be. This engagement took a lot of time and money, but the result has been a constitution, vision, mission and objectives for Soroti Bible School that now has wide understand and ownership among the pastors it will seek to serve.

Many theological schools struggle financially, and some have had to close, because of the high operating costs and the inability of pastors, especially from rural churches, to be sustain them with fees. One issue that emerged clearly from our engagement with all stakeholders is how Soroti Bible School needs to be sustained by another institution that has the financial strength and infrastructure to support it.

Soroti School of Business is also a new institution in Soroti and opened in August 2018, providing business education courses. Its facilities at its 12-acre campus are available for around five months of the year for Soroti Bible School. The site has enough capacity to support theological education even when business students are on campus.

It is this model, that allows theological education to be integrated with other forms of training, including ICT and management and leadership training, that will help pastors lead their churches and that means Soroti Bible School will not be financially stressed in the way that other Bible institutions are. The work of delivering what our stakeholders want and need can now begin in earnest. **S**

Pastor John Onyao
Director of Outreach, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2019	Achievement
To deliver a programme of engagement to develop Soroti Bible School to ensure key stakeholders are involved in future plans and development.	Meetings were held over many months to develop the school and its plans.
To plan for the delivery of at least one conference or event to make pastors aware of the work of Soroti Bible School through a launch event sometime in 2020, once NGO registration and an Operating Permit has been granted.	A launch event will be held in 2020 to announce the school is operating and to agree a detailed program of teaching.
To offer pastors ICT training and some basic management training that will support them in their work as pastors and leaders on a day-to-day basis in their churches.	Work has begun with Soroti School of Business to launch this to pastors in 2020.

Report on the Year 2019 – Director of Strategy & Resources

I first came to Soroti in 2002 and caught the vision that pastors in Soroti wanted and needed good quality, affordable Bible-training that was delivered locally and that met their deeply held desire to know God more through His Word.

As the owner and director of Soroti School of Business, it was a great blessing to be able to see that our business school could be the means by which this desire could be fulfilled.

The workshops and engagement events helped to give a clear picture of what was needed and what was achievable for pastors within Soroti. At the same time, it has also been a huge relief that Soroti Bible School will not have the burden of trying to find the resources necessary to build large structure and to pay a big team of full-time staff.

The way people learn new knowledge and skills is changing rapidly, with more study done online and by distance learning, with only occasional visits to a formal campus now becoming the norm for many students. The partnership with Soroti School of Business, including the possibility of sharing a part of any future website that is developed, means that so many of the costs of developing new colleges can now be avoided for Soroti Bible School, while it will benefit from being fully integrated into the work of a business school.

Nearly 20 years after first coming to Uganda, it is an answer to many prayers that Soroti Bible School is now alive and ready to begin to fulfil its aims and its mission. **S**

Mark Palin

Director of Strategy and Resources, Soroti Bible School

Objective for 2019	Achievement
To support the work necessary to develop the Constitution of Soroti Bible School through a series of workshops and seminars.	The Constitution of Soroti Bible School has now been written, providing a clear resource for future work.
To begin the development of written teaching materials and other resources that will support the future teaching and training of Soroti Bible School.	Written materials on the first five books of the Bible, 'tent-making' and the Book of Revelation have been written.
To secure on-going financial support for the continued development of Soroti Bible School from the board of Soroti School of Business and its directors.	A meeting of the board of Soroti School of Business will be expected to agree its financial support sometime in 2020.

What we aim to achieve in 2020

Soroti Bible School has set the following aims for itself for the coming year:

- ❖ Develop the board of Soroti Bible School and appoint board members to oversee its governance and structure
- ❖ Deliver a launch event to announce that Soroti Bible School is beginning operations, with the start of a teaching and training programme available for pastors to join
- ❖ Develop a number of the policies and documents as set out in the Constitution
- ❖ Agree funding for the development of Soroti Bible School from Soroti School of Business Limited and open a bank account for funds to be held
- ❖ Participate fully in and support the development of the Theological Education Group of North East Uganda
- ❖ Further develop written materials and training programs for delivery by Soroti Bible School in 2020
- ❖ Begin the work of seeking and identifying an appropriate academic partner who can bring accredited courses, as well as informal theological training, to pastors in Soroti

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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.

