

BE A BRICK – BUY A BRICK FOR THE SOROTI UGANDA YOUTH CENTRE!

BRICK - **NOUN:** GOOD MAN, worthy.

model, paragon (*perfection*) [See [Perfection](#)]; good example; hero, demigod, seraph, angel; saint (*piety*) [See [Piety](#)]; benefactor [See [Benefactor](#)]; philanthropist [See [Philanthropy](#)]

- ROGET'S INTERNATIONAL THESAURUS (1922)

The District of Soroti, located in eastern Uganda, is one of the poorest and almost-forgotten regions of a desperately impoverished country. The diocese includes over 350,000 confirmed members and 386 congregations. Over 50 percent of the population are under 15 years of age.

Horrific challenges beset the children of Soroti – challenges that to our sheltered, western lifestyles, are so grim as to be the stuff of nightmare. In 2003, the northern half of the district was under attack by the Lord's Resistance Army, terrorist organization that, among its other destructive activities, raped and kidnapped children and youth and indoctrinated many into its murderous cult. A host of diseases plague young and old- sleeping sickness, bilharzia, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, tetanus, measles, and AIDS; the latter of which has decimated the adult population. Schools lack adequate sanitation; indeed, many schools lack classrooms and are conducted in the open air. The drop out rate is high. Sixty-five percent of girls and 35 percent of boys do not complete their seventh year of school. The literacy rate is equally low – only 62 percent of males and 34 percent of females can read.

Decades of internal war (Uganda has suffered through the depredations of Idi Amin and Milton Obote), poverty, disease, and inadequate health care – Soroti, like the rest of Uganda, endures constant battle against the forces of evil. Against this, the Church of Uganda seeks to defend God's people. Thirty-three percent of the population belongs to the Church of Uganda, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

One of the challenges confronting the Church is how to provide for her youngest parishioners. The Church offers, as much as she is able, solace, schooling, and safekeeping – places to receive the love of God, education, and shelter from the depredations of the practitioners of cults that seek out children for sacrifice in blood rituals, places to play and learn, rather than in the sometimes garbage- infested streets. It is for these purposes that the Church in Soroti, Uganda seeks to build a Youth Centre.

Due to their material poverty, it is difficult for the people of Soroti Province to accumulate enough money to build even a small building. As poor as they are, however, in material possessions, so rich they are in faith. It is for us, who are rich in material things, to do the work that Christ Jesus has given us to do, to help our brothers and sisters in this task. Uganda has been called “the Pearl of Africa.” Shall we not, like the wealthy pearl merchant, do Jesus's work to obtain the kingdom in heaven? For we have been given much, and therefore much is demanded of us.

Let us challenge ourselves to build our faith, a brick at a time, as we help our brothers and sisters in Soroti to build their Youth Centre, a brick at a time, co-laborers in Christ's kingdom.

Sources:

District Information Portal, Soroti, Uganda - <http://www.soroti.go.ug/index.htm>

Library of Congress Country Studies – Uganda

Luke 12:48

Matthew 13:45-46

Stone, Susan - *Uganda, A Lesson in Giving* – Columns (Christ Church Oct 2006).

HOW DO I DONATE?

Make your check out to “Christ Church.” In the memo line of your check, write “Soroti Youth Centre.”

If you are making a donation in honor of someone, *eg*, as an anniversary or birthday present, please let us know and we will send a certificate to your donee.

Please mail your check to the Church Office, or give it to Helene Levenson, Christ Church parishioner, on Sunday either before or after the 10:30am service.

For more information, please contact

Helene R Levenson

598 9314

hrleven@comcast.net

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