

*And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick*

*Luke 9:2*



**Dear Praying Friends,**

**March 2012**

As we come upon our tenth month in Uganda we thank the Lord for His many blessings upon us here in Africa. We wish to thank you all who have faithfully prayed and supported us during our early Ugandan ministry. We appreciate all you have done for us, and are very blessed. Thank you so very much!

**Language training:** We have been immersed in the study of the Kumam language since late January and our teacher is very encouraging, saying we are making good progress. Admittedly, it has been a challenge learning a new tongue, especially one that is tonal, but we are determined to master it in order to reach the Kumam people who live just outside of town of Soroti.

**Praise:** We were privileged to lead a young man named Sam to the Lord recently. He is a student in the Serere area, pictured below, and came forward for salvation at the end of the sermon on a recent Sunday morning. He had been trusting in baptism to get him to heaven, but after he and I went through the Scriptures he understood his need and trusted Christ alone for his salvation. We thank the Lord for another harvested soul!

We were able to minister medically to a four year old boy named Abraham who had accidently fallen into an open fire in his family's yard sustaining second degree burns to his entire right thigh. His father actually works for the SOAP property and attends our church, and he ran to our gate to ask our help immediately after it happened. We have been caring for Abraham for over a week now and we thank the Lord the wound is healing up very nicely. Children falling into fires, or into boiling water on fires, is quite common here. I shall leave out the photos we have taken of the initial injury, and maybe save a final healed picture for the next prayer letter. Please pray for the continued and uncomplicated healing of little Abraham's leg.

To conclude the stolen cell phone saga of our last prayer letter Ivan and Sam, the phone thieves, were in jail awaiting sentencing by the magistrate. Elena and I were required to be there on the day of sentencing. We prayed for wisdom and guidance while waiting to be called into the courtroom. Just minutes after we prayed we were called to the State Attorney's Office and were confronted by Sam's mother pleading for mercy for her son. I had already felt led to make "a deal" with these two young men. We told them we would drop the charges if they agreed to attend our Independent Baptist church in Soroti, three services per week, for six months. Of course they readily agreed and showed up that night (Wednesday) for their first service and attended for two months hearing the Gospel, in English and Ateso, each time. During Christmas break we agreed to allow them to go to their village, as all Ugandans do, and have them return in late January. Unfortunately we have not seen them since, and though we are disappointed they broke our agreement we know they were ministered to and heard the Gospel many times. Please join us as we pray for Sam and Ivan's return, and for their salvation.

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**Prayer Requests:**

- \* Salvation for my father and brother: Karl and Mark Sutphen.
- \* Encouragement and stamina for our learning of the Kumam language.
- \* Approval for my medical credentials without significant difficulty.
- \* To be an effective witness and testimony for Christ to the Kumam tribe.
- \* Spiritual growth for our boys, Sean and Eric, at college in the States.

Your Fellow Servants for Souls,

Alan, Elena and Rachel Sutphen  
Uganda, East Africa



**Sam and I at the Serere Church**