



# The UBS VOICE

December 2012 Newsletter

V.6 - N.8 .....

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### BAPTISTS IN UGANDA

UBS began in 1988 and is the main factor in the rise of Baptist church numbers and membership growth in Uganda.

Baptist Churches are gaining membership and are active in evangelism.

### UBS Theological Programs

Advanced Diploma 3yrs.

Diploma 3 yrs.

Certificate 3 yrs.

Upgrade Classes are offered for UBS graduates.

Uganda National Council of Higher Education licensed the UBS Diploma program in 2006. They awarded UBS the Certificate of Classification and Registration in 2010. That means UBS is fully accredited for Diploma education. UBS has begun the process for one degree accreditation.

## Over 100 Students this December 2012

The first Bridge class finished this November and most entered the first term of Certificate 16 class. Then a new Diploma class met, with Diploma 22, and Advanced Diploma 7 classes. A few Bridge students left due to failure or inability to pay the Certificate fees. Altogether the student body was 102 on campus, pictured below.



Above is the new Certificate 16 class. This is the largest class in UBS history and the first to finish the Bridge Program. Sadly, a theft occurred affecting these students in the last week of classes. A night guard made off with four fire extinguishers and ten students' clothes. Nine of these students were women who had washed clothes and left

them on the clothesline to dry over night along with the one man's clothes. Several cooking pans and other things were taken. Apparently, the paid guard threw these things over the wall at the back of the campus at 4 to 5 am. He had turned off the security lights so he could do this sinful thing in the cover of darkness. Several students and faculty made reports of something strange taking place. The faculty wives pitched in to help with replacement clothes. This was an attack by Satan to discourage new students. Pray for students not to be discouraged by this sinful act.



**New Diploma 26 students this December.** Not all of them were available for this photo. UBS had a new Diploma class earlier this year, but the number was too low. A plea was made for new students to join this class for another first term attempt this December. This makes fifteen students who will be in this class in the second term in 2013.

#### **November 2012 Bridge Ministry data:**

**Bridge 1 students led 1185 people to Christ and baptized 326 believers.**

**Details for the bridge students:** Most began the first Term of Certificate 16 this December. **Four new preaching points were reported** by these students. Ten new churches were reported planted in Masaka District by others, but places and names were not mentioned so were not counted.

#### **December 2012 Ministry data:**

**Diploma 22 students led 819 people to Christ and baptized 92 believers.**

**Advanced Dip. 7 students led 240 people to Christ and baptized 83 believers.**

**Details this December:** New Diploma 26 class, no ministry data. **Eleven new preaching points were started and five new churches planted by these two classes.** Several Bible training schools for local leaders were mentioned.

**UBS Total Student Ministry data reported for Jan - Dec. 2012:**

**28,765 people saved and 4,565 believers baptized  
93 new preaching points and 66 new churches planted  
in 2012.**

**The Master of Divinity and the masters of Theological Studies are programs of SEBTS.**

**Pray that Uganda has a good balance of rain and sun to grow crops that support people here.**

**YOUR Prayers  
Help UBS to  
proclaim the  
Good News to  
Central Africa!**

**Many thanks go to  
volunteer teachers  
who travel to Uganda  
and help teach UBS  
students.**

Thanks to "In Touch" ministries, digital messengers were given to every student at UBS this year. A story of use of the devices is in the student testimony section.

20% of UBS students are international students from Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda.

If you believe God is at work with UBS and want to help, please contact us!

UBS missionaries are church planting in Koboko, Lamwo, and Mutukula, Uganda. Pray that they will succeed in this glorious ministry. Pray about how you can help them with the Great Commission mandate.



This Kenyan Pastor in Diploma 22 class has a women's leader and a deacon in the Certificate 16 class from the same church. Developing many leaders in a church is necessary to be on mission in Africa.



These Tanzanian Aunt and Niece are together in the same Certificate 16 class.



This lady is in the Certificate 16 class. She led her nephew to Christ a number of years ago and now he is in church leadership and is studying in the Advanced Diploma 7 class that is in residence this December. Relatives that share the Good News with their families show the love of God to those in their families. That is the greatest gift you can give to anyone.



**Relatives together in Certificate 16 class.** What better way to keep families together in the service of Christ. Christmas time is family time in Uganda.



**His mother is in Certificate 16 class while he is in Advanced Diploma 7 class.** Both students are from Rwanda. Families serving Christ is a blessing.

## **Testimonies of UBS students**

### **Kampala Street Witness**

An Advanced Diploma student gave this witness encounter: After an event for training children in scripture recitation and how to present Gospel skits the student made his way home in Kampala. A man stopped him and said he recognized him as a leader in the local Baptist church. We chatted some and then he blurted out "please tell me how to be saved". Never before had someone sought the student out with the urgency of salvation. The student shared the Gospel with the man and led him to Christ right there on the street side.

### **A Lot of Walking for Jesus**

This Certificate student returned from his last time at UBS on fire for Jesus. The church was busy with ministry. He realized he needed to set a good example of evangelism. He started a local crusade and started preaching to the people. Three people accepted Jesus Christ. That excited him; the next day he started door to door witnessing and led five to Jesus and kept walking and witnessing and led two more to

**UBS Student ministry  
Reaching the lost!  
Last 4 years - UBS:  
Over 117,000 people  
saved - Praise God!**

### **Hebrews 2:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we ignore such a **great salvation**? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

### **John 14:6-7 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**"  
<sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

**A BIG thanks to Jim and Mary Benham for supporting UBS operations to reach out to Africa today. God Bless you all.**

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A website for UBS is operating through the contributions of Jim and Mary Benham and their son. Please Visit the site.



Pray for UBS missionaries.

## UBS Motto

2 Tim 4:2-5

2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

## UBS Motto is

"Preach the Word"

2 Tim 4:2

Jesus. Thank God for the strength to keep walking and witnessing for Jesus Christ.

## In Touch with Christ

A Certificate student used the In Touch messengers to share Dr. Charles Stanley's sermons in two lost people's homes. People were curious about the little device but began to listen to the message of Dr. Stanley. Two different families realized they were lost, decided to be saved, and immediately joined the student's church.

## Jesus is the Answer

This Advanced Diploma student shared that in northern Uganda a family of another religion faced demonic attacks on their child. Their local religious leaders tried every trick to free the child, but without success. The family members asked who could help them, and they were referred to the UBS student, who prayed for the child. The child was instantly delivered from the bondage. The child, who had not eaten for four days, asked for food and then went out to play with the children. The Aunt, who had cared for the sick child, knowing now Jesus is God, asked if she could be saved. So the student led her to faith in Jesus. The whole compound confessed the reality of Jesus Christ. Pray more people locked in false ideologies could hear the truth and be set free.

## A Quest without Help in Rwanda

A young lady sought help though witchdoctors to find money to fly to Canada and join her husband. In the course of fruitless endeavors she heard the truth of Jesus Christ preached by an Advanced Diploma student. She was convicted that she had done wrong to seek Satan for help; she needed salvation. She accepted Christ to set her free of sins and Satan's bondage. Now, she trusts God to show the way to serve Him and live, not for herself, but for Jesus. **Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV)** <sup>33</sup> *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* A popular song goes... I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back no turning back.

## How UBS Began *Continues with part 2*

**UBS ADMINISTRATIVE CORE FORMED in 1998-The Principal was in place.**

The BOG added another missionary family to join the UBS faculty and staff in 1998. The BOG added Vernon Sivage, who became the **Academic Dean**, and Sandi Sivage took over the finance office of UBS. The Sivages had left Rwanda and were involved in theological education by extension there and in Uganda. Vernon was a part of the BOG in the pre 1998 meetings and had had opportunity to teach at UBS as adjunct professor. The BOG also added two former students of UBS as faculty members in 1998. Agustav Odonyo and Moses Mulago came to UBS after completing their Bachelor of Theology at the International Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa (IBTSEA). Agustav had pastored in Lira and was active in the local Lira Bible school, training Baptist church leaders. **Agustav became the Dean of Students** and moved to UBS. Moses Mulago was pastor of Mbale First Baptist Church and helped develop church planting and a Bible school in Pallisa. At UBS **Moses became the Registrar**, and moved to the UBS campus. The **Administrative Core** was now in place for the next fourteen years. The student programs took off and UBS began serious growth that has added a greater number of students every year to this present time.

## NEW ADDITIONS TO UBS FACULTY

The Bachelor of Theology began in 2000 and more teachers were needed. Dallas and Charlotte Abendroth asked to join the faculty at UBS, and the BOG accepted them. They had come to Jinja as Global Outreach missionaries and had taught at the Global Outreach seminary in the past. They had much theological experience in Kenya in their past which was good to add to UBS classroom life. Charlotte, an MK from early AIM missions, grew up among Maasi ministries in the Rift Valley. Both Dallas and Charlotte have brought much African theological expertise to UBS. They also lead the Source Of Light ministry that helps students with evangelism and discipleship materials which they take into many schools in Uganda. Samuel Lubega joined the faculty members in 2005 after pastoring the Choice Baptist Church in Kampala. He is living on campus fulltime with Herbert Kabuluku, Moses Mulago, and Agustav Odonyo, all

**UBS enrollment is 500 students, including the new Diploma students added this December.**

**UBS Student Motto:  
Winners never quit  
Quitters never win**

**Thank you for partnering with UBS to reach central AFRICA today for Jesus Christ through Theological Education.**

**A website for UBS:  
[www.ugandabaptistseminary.org](http://www.ugandabaptistseminary.org)  
go to links/news for all the listings of VOICE**

in faculty housing at UBS.

### **SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY AT UBS**

The first **SEBTS Master of Theological Studies** was conducted at IBTSEA (now Mt.Meru University) in Arusha, TZ. Agustav and Moses were in that first class and graduated with the MTS in 2004. The second MTS was accomplished through UBS. Jackson Ecuna and Herbert Kabuluku were in that class from UBS faculty and graduated with the Master of Theological Studies. A third cohort began and UBS has two fulltime professors, Samuel Lubega and Herbert Kabuluku, and several adjunct teachers in this. See the photo a few months ago. A new cohort is being considered to begin later in 2013. A graduation at UBS this April 2013 will add to this MTS cohort.

### **THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

UBS, through the Board Of Governors, came under the National Council of Higher Education in 2003 with a Provisional License to operate a Diploma program. UBS was among the first five schools out of approximately eighty schools of all types of education to qualify for the Provisional License. The NCHE awarded UBS the **Certificate of Registration and Certification**, full accreditation for Diploma education in 2010. UBS is currently pursuing the Bachelors accreditation.

### **NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR UBS**

The Baptist Mission of Uganda invited a Louisiana SBC church, **Istrouma Baptist Church** to provide music and worship to the annual meeting of the BMU. Out of this contact Jim and Mary Benham, who were part of the Louisiana team, took interest in the long range funding strategy of UBS beginning in 2005. Jim and Mary have traveled out to Uganda annually since then to vision cast with UBS leadership and see what was on the ground at UBS. The Benhams' help has been through every way possible to stay within IMB guidelines and keep UBS viable and on a growing track of theological education in Central Africa.

### **PROMOTION of VOICE and a WEBSITE**

The newsletter, The UBS Voice, began in 2007 under the guidance of the Principal. The task was to produce a newsletter within IMB guidelines. Some of that was by trial and error. Eventually the newsletter began coming out six to eight times a year, keeping everyone informed of what was happening at UBS. The newsletters from 2007 to present are located at the website of UBS [www.ugandabaptistseminary.org](http://www.ugandabaptistseminary.org) Go to Links/news for the list. The website was designed by Jim Benham's son, a professional web master. The task of updating the website with current pictures remains the challenge.

**The next newsletter will cover the history of UBS from 2008 - Present.**



New UBS walkway, notice the large water catchment tanks at the end of this walkway.

Thank You and may God bless you for praying for UBS.

Principal - UBS



New walkway around the newest classroom. This view faces the front driveway.

### UBS Prayer Concerns:

**1. Pray for the SEBTS Masters Cohort. Most of the cohort are focusing on the MTS degree.** SEBTS has brought back the MTS program and is making it the main international Master's program. This makes the possibility of an accredited Masters degree more affordable to the international students here.

**2. Pray for the faculty to have a good rest from the busy year of 2012.** The seminary will start up on the January 7 with Advanced Diploma classes and the second Bridge class. Many faculty members and staff worked in a non-stop six week stretch to finish the bridge class and transition them to Certificate class. Much sacrifice is made to accommodate timely and financial restraints. UBS faculty has planned to do this six week stretch several times in 2013.

**3. Pray for the second Bridge class which will return in January for term 2.** Please pray that they will arrive on time after the holiday season and will overcome the financial challenges. Several of these church leaders serve in places of hostility toward believers. Pray that they will persevere through immense challenges to shine bright with the light of Christ in the dark places of Africa.

**4. We are praying for many church leaders to see their need for training at UBS in Africa.**

**5. Pray for the 3 UBS/BUU missionaries.**

**Simon Nono** and his family live and serve God in Lamwo, northern Uganda, near the South Sudan border.

**Mark Vukoni** and his family live and serve God in Koboko in northwest West Nile Region, Uganda. This is near the DRC.

**Sam Kaswabi** and his family live and serve God in Mutukula, near Tanzania.

**6. Pray for the nine students who lost clothing in a robbery at UBS.** Pray that Jesus will encourage them to stand strong where they serve Him. Pray also that they all will return at the scheduled times in 2013.

**7. Please pray for Baptist Bible Schools preparing for graduations in the coming year.** Pray for Terry Nester and his family who are together in the USA this Christmas. Pray that Terry and Debbie will have a good and restful flight back to Uganda after Christmas.

From UBS  
We wish  
You all a  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy  
New Year.



8. Pray for families in the USA who are seeking a way to come and begin teaching at UBS.

9. Pray for the Bible ministry.

We give MacArthur Study Bibles and Ryrie Study Bibles to the graduates of the Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs. The Certificate students use and are given NIV Study Bibles. Please help UBS get the Study Bibles used for graduation gifts.

