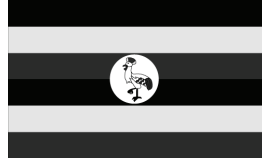




Monthly Mission Focus: Uganda



Location: Eastern Africa, west of Kenya. Area: total: 236,040 sq km – slightly smaller than Oregon
Population: 28,195,754. Capital: Kampala 1,200,000

Ethnic groups: Baganda 17%, Ankole 8%, Basoga 8%, Iteso 8%, Bakiga 7%, Langi 6%, Rwanda 6%, Bagisu 5%, Acholi 4%, Lugbara 4%, Batoro 3%, Bunyoro 3%, Alur 2%, Bagwere 2%, Bakonjo 2%, Jopodhola 2%, Karamojong 2%, Rundi 2%, non-African (European, Asian, Arab) 1%, other 8%

Religions: Roman Catholic 33%, Protestant 33%, Muslim 16%, indigenous beliefs 18%

Languages: English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

Answers to Prayer

🌍 Uganda is the first country in the world with a massive AIDS problem to halve and even reduce the numbers of the afflicted from possibly 25% in 1992 to possibly 8-10% in 2000.

🌍 The East African Revival brought new life and fervency to the large Church of Uganda and other smaller denominations for 30 years after its beginnings in 1936.

🌍 Renewed revival from 1986 onwards

Challenges for Prayer

🌍 The devastation of the Amin and Obote years with unrestrained terror, murder, tribal warfare and corruption destroyed much of the economic and social fabric of the nation and hastened the spread of AIDS.

🌍 The Church though in part being revived and growing, needs prayer for loving unity in Christ, continued renewal, and training of a new generation of leaders.

🌍 Major ministry challenges for the Ugandan Church: the AIDS disaster, young people's ministry, abducted children, street children, and refugees.

🌍 Missions vision in the Ugandan Church

(Statistics are compiled from Operation World and CIA – The World Factbook 2006)

Abayudayas in Uganda

The Abayudayas were isolated in a remote part of Eastern Africa for more than 80 years. They were practicing the Jewish religion. Modern technology introduced them to leaders of that religion 7,000 miles away. A filmmaker for a New York-based film company traveled with her husband and those Jewish leaders to that remote village in Uganda, East Africa. She and her husband invested their own money and her New-York based company invested \$16,000 to cover vaccination and travel costs. Their documentary, "Moving Heaven and Earth," shows African village families, having been introduced to the Bible early in the 20th century by Christian missionaries, later unexpectedly, going through the conversion process to adopt Jewish practices! The Abayudaya village's spiritual leader, now studying at an American Jewish University, had alerted the filmmakers to the Ugandan Abayudaya's existence. A group of American and Israeli Conservative rabbis later went to that Ugandan village to investigate the faith of the villagers whose children are taught traditional Jewish beliefs at an early age. (*Global Prayer Digest – May 9, 2004*)

Animistic Sabaot people of Kenya and Uganda

When their Kenyan and Ugandan homelands could no longer support their cattle herds, the Sabaot people began farming, ending their regular bouts with hunger and physical hardships. However, the fabric of their culture began to dissolve, and today the people face traumatic emotional challenges and hopelessness. Young educated people lead in new directions, while elders mourn their lost lifestyle and influence.

The Sabaot people search for significance and hope, and we know a relationship with their Creator and Redeemer can give them that and more. They have always believed in a distant god who provided physical life. Their daily faith however, was wasted on ancestral spirits. As missionaries share the gospel through audio and printed translations, people are beginning to respond, yet less than two percent of the 300,000 Sabaot people are evangelical Christians. The hindrances to sharing the gospel are many. There is only one missionary for every 80,000 persons, and workers face transportation problems because of poor roads in the mountain range. Animistic practices keep the Sabaot people in spiritual bondage to spirits that have been put in the Lord's rightful place. (*Global Prayer Digest – January 26, 2002*)