



# Alliance For Life International<sup>©</sup>

## *A Report from Uganda*

July 1, 2020

Dear friends of the Alliance,

Greetings from Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. A lot has occurred during the last three months. As Americans, even living abroad, we are a changed people because of the last concurrent and momentous events: the unjust and traumatic death of George Floyd at the hands of a policeman, the continued Corona virus pandemic, the protests accompanied by riots, and now the desecration of statues and other artistic representations of our history. What is looming on the horizon is even more alarming. The up-coming elections are unleashing a cultural revolution not unlike what has been observed in other countries under the throes of communism. It was Karl Marx who promoted a constant, continuous revolution to destabilize a regime and implant communism instead. There seems to be a larger context for these upheavals such as the establishing a one-world order. Our President opposes this agenda. This helps to partially explain the ferocious opposition he has been under from the very beginning. If you would like more information on the subject, you may view this video. It comes from a Catholic perspective and contains significant insights on the current crisis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDOFFV0LpLI>

Have you been affected by the incessant bad news? Take heart for Jesus has overcome the world! I find comfort in resting in the shadow of his wings when news from home is overwhelmingly negative. It is a little bit more peaceful here in Uganda even though the election cycle is underway amidst the persistent pandemic. There has been a partial return to work but the churches and schools remain closed.

This is the backdrop under which the Alliance is trying to do its work: a 7 pm curfew which occasions traffic jams especially in the evening when it takes 3-4 hours to get home; no bodas (motorcycles) allowed to carry people; mini-vans allowed to carry half their usual number of passengers and costing triple their usual fare and having fewer routes. This lack of public transport is preventing our clients from reaching our office in Kampala and is affecting two staff members who commute to work. Nobert and Emily are now traveling by car together which is a blessing.

I have spent the last week in Kampala focused on resuming our work under these circumstances. All aspects of our work were affected; so much so that I came to view the obstructions as coming from the enemy of our souls who does not like any of our works of education or mercy. Norah, Nobert and Emily are troopers! They adjust to the circumstances.

As in the past, I favor flexible scheduling. Traveling to the office at earlier times during the day helps them to avoid traffic jams.

Our major goal was to re-negotiate **our radio program LIFE MATTERS**, to insure that we get back on the air LIVE with new programming. Under Covid restrictions and curfew, we were unable to get to the radio station. So the station is playing reruns. We negotiated a new time slot. It will be weekly on Saturdays from 4-5 pm with the understanding that we can go back to our Sunday time when curfew is lifted. We asked for a price adjustment for the next 4 months to compensate for the fact that we only played reruns over the past several months. We got the authorization to use English and Luganda on a 50-50% basis instead of 30-70% as in the past. This will give us increased flexibility in our programming. We also changed the program format. We were under a radio station staff member's own program. His name is Robert. Emily and Robert were sharing airtime. This served us well for the last two years. As she learned from Robert, Emily developed the skills necessary to conduct a weekly radio program and she perfected her Luganda and has become fluent. With our new radio format, Emily will be the program host. She will still have the option to invite guest speakers. Overall, we are very excited about the coming changes. We will be back live on the air starting July 11.

We looked at all ALI programs and how to facilitate them under the current circumstances. **Pregnancy Counseling** has resumed. We are following a mother of 4 who is 6 months pregnant and under a lot of stress because, four months ago, her partner left her and the children. We are doing our part to help her: we prioritized the need for a medical evaluation since she had no ante-natal care so far. Our facilitation will insure this takes place. Her neighbors and landlord have been helping her due. We requested that social services be involved as she has needs which no one can manage on the long term. We will continue to follow her closely. Please pray for this mother.

We are planning to resume our **Adopt-A-Mom** program as soon as possible. Classroom times have not restarted. Judith, a young mother of two, was set to start her sewing classes when they were interrupted. We will negotiate with her teacher who indicated she could teach Judith as a single student.

Emily's clients are having difficulty coming to the office to learn the **Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Fertility Regulation**. Public transportation is too expensive and sporadic. Our goal is to offer monthly BOM classes in two major cities just outside Kampala where many of our referrals originate. We are looking for a regular and convenient location and plan to advertise the classes on our radio program. Emily will continue to offer individual teaching in our office for those who live in Kampala.

One of our major goals is **to become affiliated with the World Organization Ovulation Method Billings (WOOMB)**. At this time, ALI and WOOMB-Australia jointly support **the Billings Life Center in Kampala**. A formal affiliation would allow us to offer independent training programs, offer re-certification, and grow our center to meet the needs in Uganda. In order to qualify for affiliation, we must have two certified teachers. We only have one at this time. This week, we

met with Susan and Olivia; both are interested in becoming certified teachers. Both took the 3-day course in the past and are passionate about teaching the BOM. As a next step, they both enrolled in a *Correspondence Course* which will be jointly provided and supervised, and which will take close to one year. This will reinforce all learning and provide for a supervised practicum. We are excited about affiliation. We are on our way!

As you may recall, we were set to begin our pilot program teaching our new Abstinence Education course: Collier Community Abstinence Education (CCAP) which originated and is used in Florida. It has proven effectiveness in decreasing STIs and teen-age pregnancies. Schools closed the day before we were scheduled to teach the CCAP! As in other countries, schools have not re-opened. Twenty-five percent of Ugandan young people become pregnant by the age of 19. About half of them marry before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The problem of unplanned pregnancies among teens has exacerbated under the lockdown.

We have decided to use our radio program to teach the CCAP over a four-week period. In preparation for this outreach, Norah and Nobert are working with a small group of teen-agers. They have begun the program. They will act informally as peer counselors. We will invite two of them to participate in our radio outreach and share their experiences with the CCAP. Emily will discuss the program on her show in the preceding two weeks and invite parents to support abstinence education and encourage their teens to tune in. We are developing new radio adverts. All the staff is involved. It is very exciting to be using the medium of radio, especially during Covid, when our audience is more available to listen.

Louise is establishing a schedule of sorts: 3 weeks in Kibaale where she focuses on the St Raphael Hospital Project and 9 days in Kampala to oversee the PRC. Here is a brief update about **the St Raphael Hospital Project**.

This week, our architect Philip and team of engineers, are expected to submit complete designs for the children's facilities. Please **see the attached pictures of the children's hospital** and the utility building behind it. We chose our construction firm, Sarick Construction Ltd, among seven who had expressed interest. We negotiated the construction contract, cleared and graded the land and created an access road. We plan to build in phases starting with the foundation.

Prior to getting started, Godfrey and Louise are working on our **Project Proposal** since we will soon have all the necessary components. We plan to **submit our proposal to the Papal Nuncio** by the end of this month. The Vatican supports some construction projects. We hope to be selected. Please pray. Once done, we will develop a Power Point Presentation and take the show on the road! We plan to meet Hoima Diocese and Kibaale District officials who would like an update. This will kick off our local fundraising.

Anatoli, our IT expert, and Louise have developed a **website for the project**. We are delighted to invite you to review it. Your comments are always welcome:

[www.straphaelhospitalproject.org](http://www.straphaelhospitalproject.org)

We chose a platform which is designed for hospital websites. You will notice that many areas do not carry information as per the heading. Eventually, it will all be in use. The Donate section is still in progress,

Many have inquired about Louise's future travel plans. Thank you for your solicitude. We barely made it in the country, March 13, the precise day when Covid travel restrictions were being implemented. The airport is closed. In the meantime, President Museveni has allowed a few flights each month to bring passengers from Uganda to Europe and from there, to other destinations. It is comforting to know that we could return to the US soon if needed. We have decided to stay through September since there is plenty of work to do to advance the hospital project and meet the needs of the PRC during Covid.

Normally, we would have our bi-annual fundraiser in September. We would have made appeals at St Martin de Porres Church as we were scheduled to speak at all their services in May. Their congregation has been wonderfully supportive. Under the current restrictions, it had to be postponed. *We trust God to meet all our needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus. He works through wonderful people like you.* We are making our appeal to you directly to support the work of the Alliance as in the past.

I am including updated information to facilitate your giving at this time. Instead of writing a check, would you please consider using a credit card via PayPal on our ALI website:

**[www.allianceforlifeint.org/donate](http://www.allianceforlifeint.org/donate)** **Are you a St Raphael Hospital Founding Member?** You have an opportunity to leave an important legacy for years to come. **If yes, would you consider upgrading your level of support?** The planned 40-bed pediatric facility will serve half the population of Kibaale and beyond, providing essential and modern medical care. We are planning to use the children's facilities as soon as completed, and then continue to gradually build the rest of the hospital. You may use Paypal on ALI website as above. Under Donate, at the bottom of the page, you will see information on how to become a Founding Member.

**Thank you for standing with us.** We hope you are well and prospering in all things even during our current circumstances. The Lord delights in meeting our needs when we are even more dependent on Him. *We pray that the Lord will bless and keep you, and heal our land as we stand in the breach.* I pray that the Lord especially reveals himself to our young people. Many are left aimless at this time: schools are closed; their world is upside-down, and their future uncertain. I viewed the following video <https://www.chonday.com/29213/> recently about a 13 year old girl touched by God with an exceptional gift and talent. It reminds me of a promise God made to the youth in the last days: "It shall come to pass I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions (Joel 3:1, New American Bible)." May this promise be fulfilled, even now, Lord Jesus.

Always in His care,

*Louise Allard, Founder/President*



*Architect rendition of the future St Raphael Children Medical & Wellness Center*



*The first building of the future St Raphael Teaching Hospital of Western Uganda*



A typical Kibaale family: young children, multi-generational; often the father is absent



New BOM teachers on the way: Emily and Louise surround Susan and Olivia