



Alliance For Life International[©]

A Report from Uganda

September 22, 2020

Dear friends of the Alliance,

Greetings from Uganda. We are united with you in prayer as we are constantly aware of the many trials and tribulations affecting many of us. We think of you often as we experience our calling so far away from home. We realize that God is always on the move, turning our circumstances to benefit others through His incessant work.

The pandemic is still with us but we are getting used to live with it. In a country of 40 million people, there have been 5,594 cases of which 1,083 are active, and 61 deaths. At no point was the health care system overwhelmed although a dozen health care workers also died of Covid. We are grateful for their service and the Ministry of Health's response at all levels. Most activities have resumed including schools, but only online. In a developing country like Uganda, this is really no solution. Most children cannot participate because they do not have access to computers or internet. Good news on the way: as of Oct 1st, in person classes will resume for candidates classes only, or those who are expected to graduate during that school year. As for churches, they are finally scheduled to open as of Oct 1st with a limited attendance of 70. We are encouraged. It was a long time coming. The Entebbe Airport will also open Oct 1st.

But most churches are closed worldwide for reasons that elude us since it would be easy for them to implement social distancing and other protective measures as other businesses have done. As a Human Rights organization, we feel compelled to speak out. We believe it is the greatest human rights violation which accompanies this pandemic. The right to practice your religion and to worship God alone or with others is inherent to all human beings and should not be infringed. In the meantime, violence, anarchy, depression, and suicide are all on the rise. God is not mocked. He is a merciful God but also a just God. Those governments which abuse their powers will bear the consequences. We are concerned that the churches may also be held accountable for their tacit agreement with the States. We find parallels with the hand of God liberating the Israelites under Egyptian bondage. We have been crying out to God. We are awaiting our Moses! The body of Christ will find a way to worship God. If protesters can be in the street, protesters/worshippers can also flood the streets with songs of praise and Thanksgiving.

We have returned to full operations at the **Pregnancy Resource Center** although we have modified our approach to adjust to different circumstances. Norah is mostly in the field since pregnant ladies needing support find it expensive to come to the office. But at least two to three times a week, our office in Kampala welcomes 8-10 young people, to attend the Youth Abstinence Education Program. We use the **Collier Community Abstinence Program (CCAP)** from Florida. It has proven effective in reducing teenaged pregnancies and STIs. Norah and Nobert are teaching this program. In August/September, they presented it each week on our radio program **Life Matters**. Because of the lockdown, there has been an increase in teenage pregnancies. Parents are discovering the benefits of the **CCAP** and they want their teens to participate.

We have one young lady benefiting from our **Adopt-A-Mom** program. Judith, a young mother of two, has started sewing classes in mid-August. We anticipate a six-month course. It's challenging because Judith is not literate; thankfully, her experienced teacher is confident that Judith can still learn. Judith is sponsored by a wonderful couple from Florida, Dr. Karen and Dr. Hugh. We are so thankful for their support.

Emily has resumed hosting **Life Matters** on *Family Radio Uganda, 105.3 FM, every Sunday 6-7 pm*. She addresses the issues of family planning using the **Billings Ovulation Method (BOM)**, discusses parenting issues, or how to manage stress during pregnancy, and other similar topics. The weekly radio program represents a great opportunity for the work of the Alliance to reach a larger audience. We noticed an increased volume of calls, especially after the program ends. The callers require counseling, teaching, encouragement, and prayer. In most instances, our staff is well equipped to respond to their needs and they get a great sense of satisfaction out of it. Emily has resumed going in the field to teach couples wishing to achieve or postpone pregnancy naturally using the BOM.

As you may recall from our previous update, we were set to begin building the hospital this month, starting with the foundation for the children's facilities. As we were seeking to update our **Second Partner, the Hoima Catholic Diocese (HCD)**, Chancellor Nugwa invited us to meet their experts in health, education, and land issues. We met in August. Their team asked us to consider 24 questions regarding governance of the project and the new facilities once built. Many of these matters had been discussed in the **Memorandum of Understanding** which was achieved and signed in 2017 between **Alliance for Life International and the Hoima Catholic Diocese/Bujuni Parish**.

The St Raphael Hospital Committee under **Alliance for Life International-Uganda** met several times to discuss our response to these queries. We just submitted our answers and pertinent documents to the **HCD**. The goal is to move forward together from now on. We pray that our closer partnership will benefit the project. We see this as a very positive development even though it feels like going through a merger of sort.

We hope to begin construction soon and to hold our Ground-Breaking event in early November.

We plan to reconnect with many of you in person around Thanksgiving. We are not planning a live Fundraising Event this year. We pray and trust that God is caring for you and blessing you in ways you were not even expecting. We humbly request your continued financial support for the **Pregnancy Resource Center** and all the lives we touch through this ministry. As for the **St Raphael Hospital Project**, please give generously. Last week, we were meeting with Philip, our architect, and Samuel, the construction manager to discuss the building of the children's facilities (pictures below), starting with the foundation. Samuel expressed a valid concern: what if we finish the foundation and there are no funds to continue? Do we have to pull out the equipment and come back to resume when you are ready? An expensive proposition! We plan to pay-as-we-go. So there should always be funds trickling in to insure we move along. Some may be able to afford larger amounts but all contributions matter. *Becoming a Founding Member* is a wonderful way to do it.

You may use Paypal on our website: www.allianceforlifeint.org, or mail a check made to **Alliance for Life International**. If you live in Uganda, you may go to this website: www.straphaelhospitalproject.org. Under **Donate**, you will find information about *Becoming a Founding Member*.

Thank you for standing with us. We can just imagine when the **St Raphael Children Medical & Wellness Center opens its doors in 2022**. We hope many doctors and other health care professionals will visit us in Uganda and contribute their advanced expertise. The Ugandans are a very hospitable and wonderful people. Life is good here: the climate is perfect, the country is safe, and there are numerous National Parks where you can see big game; the food is abundant and good; lodging is inexpensive. You can live on \$20 per day!! Their population is very young. 75% achieve a high school education. Many go to college. But there are few working opportunities. That's when you come in! A country in full development! It now has roads and electricity, and the Internet. A short visit is all it takes for you to fall in love with Uganda and want to participate in bringing prosperity to the region. So we hope some of you will join us in April 2021. Share how we can facilitate this for you.

On this note, we wish you well. We know our God is at work in the US and the world as He cares for His children and as He nudges others to come under the shadow of His wings and experience His protection and His unfailing love. Come humbly before God, draw near to Him and He will draw near to you (James 4:8).

Always in His care,

Louise Allard
Founder/President



Judith and her teacher. Learning a new skill, life is calling!



Norbert, Norah, and a CCAP grad teaching the program on **Life Matters**



The future *St Raphael Children Medical & Wellness Center*. Utility Building is in the back.



The Kibaale Team under the Alliance and the Hoima Catholic Diocese Team.