

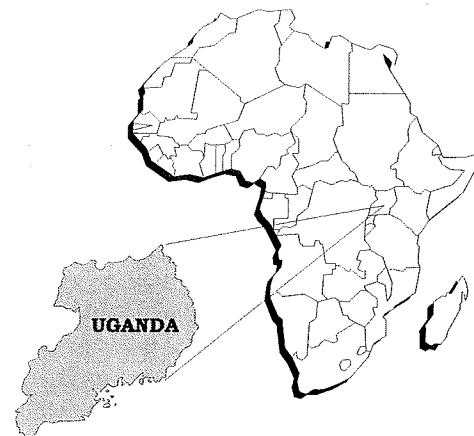
# Susan Hay

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\*\*\* A NEW YEAR....

NEW POSSIBILITIES \*\*\*

The work of the Education Department of the Baptist Union of Uganda (BUU) encompasses well over 100 schools scattered throughout the nation of Uganda. The majority of those schools are in poor repair having no doors or windows, no cement floors, leaking tin roofs, and few or no benches, necessitating students to sit on small grass mats on earthen floors. Many teachers have inadequate training and do not have textbooks to use for teaching. They also flounder in trying to provide spiritual training for their students.

Too many school administrators and school management committees do not understand the scope of their responsibilities. Financial accounting is often haphazard and inspection mechanisms are not in place, which can lead to practices that are harmful to the development of the schools. In some cases, regional and associational education boards are nonexistent, and the members of those boards that do exist need on-going training.

In addition to all that, my colleagues, Chris and Christine Leach, retired on December 5, leaving a huge hole in the Education Department. Having made Africa my home for 30 years, I am also all too aware that my time in Uganda is rapidly winding down. Recognizing the enormity of the task, the BUU Education Board has put together a list of some of the personnel that are needed to meet the serious educational challenges it is facing.

- ❖ Vocational trainer: A vocational track was recently added to the curriculum of Malongo Baptist Secondary School. Personnel are needed who could teach an intensive two-week course or a semester or more in the areas of masonry, carpentry, tailoring and computer science (the latter is a future need that must wait until electric lines have been brought to the school).
- ❖ Bible teacher/trainer/materials developer: It is the mission of the BUU that the students attending BUU schools be introduced to the Savior and receive solid Bible training. However, many teachers in BUU schools do not know the Scriptures, do not have access to biblical teaching materials, and do not know how to create their own materials. Individuals are needed who could prepare Bible education materials, provide biblical training for teachers, train pastors how to teach in local schools, and provide holiday Bible programs for students.
- ❖ Administrative trainer: Head teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs) are key factors in the development of the BUU schools, but they need ongoing training.
- ❖ Regional administrative worker: The countrywide education work is too much for the national BUU Education Department to manage. Thus, somebody is needed who can help associations and regions set up effective education boards that can oversee the educational work on the local level.
- ❖ Accountant: A key need is for somebody who could help school administrators and SMCs set up simple and transparent accounting systems and also audit school accounts on an annual basis.
- ❖ Teacher trainer: Those who could provide in-service training for teachers at all levels in all subjects are desperately needed.
- ❖ Counselor: Many of the youth of Uganda have experienced war, abuse, the death of parents due to AIDS, in addition to grinding poverty and the fear instilled by traditional religion. A trained counselor could work directly with the children in BUU schools or could train teachers and pastors how to more effectively minister to children who have suffered trauma.

100013 • Additional Support Needed: \$430 per month



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- ❖ Health worker/community health: Anybody willing to spend time training students, teachers and parents in areas such as basic hygiene, first aid, disease prevention and treatment, safety issues, nutrition, and alcoholism, could positively impact school attendance, the ability of students to function in the classroom, and the overall quality of life in communities.
- ❖ Medical ministry team: Medical doctors, nurses, dentists and ophthalmologists willing to work and share the love of Christ in a rural community for one to two weeks would have unlimited opportunities for ministry. It would be necessary for team members to provide their own equipment.
- ❖ Agricultural developer: For those who would like to use agricultural expertise for the glory of God, there are opportunities to develop school gardens, forests and animal projects for income generation, improved student nutrition, and life skills training. There is also a growing need to train school communities in wise environmental practices.
- ❖ Community development/water development: Although the BUU Education Department focuses on schools, the well-being of each school is directly affected by the state of the community in which it functions. Opportunities abound to help communities obtain sources of clean drinking water and to provide training in areas such as sanitation and family issues so that school children can study more consistently.
- ❖ Resource development/grant writing: Resources for education are available, but it takes a tremendous amount of time to network, research and then write and follow-up funding proposals. An individual with interest and experience in this area could greatly help BUU schools become more viable.

There is tremendous freedom to develop any of the above jobs as one is able and feels led. One could work with a cluster of schools, within a region, or throughout the entire nation of Uganda. Anybody responding to the above personnel needs could work uniquely with schools or could also work in a parallel fashion with BUU churches. In some cases, it would also be possible to combine several of the above jobs. Most of the job opportunities would involve a fair amount of traveling and are for two years to a lifetime.

The challenges would be many, but the Lord of the harvest is still seeking compassionate laborers to send into the ripe harvest field of Uganda, and the benefits are eternal. If you feel the Lord nudging you in a new direction in 2010, or if you know of somebody who has skills in the above areas, check out the WorldVenture website at [WorldVenture.com](http://WorldVenture.com) using the keyword "opportunities" to learn more details, or contact WorldVenture's recruitment department, Lucy Jaske ([l.jaske@WorldVenture.com](mailto:l.jaske@WorldVenture.com)) at mission headquarters in Littleton, Colorado, using the phone number on the bottom front of this letter.

As we start a new year, please join me in PRAYING that God would provide the workers that are needed to help BUU schools become institutions of academic and spiritual excellence where young people can be trained to impact their society for the glory of God.

With thanksgiving for your partnership,  
Susan Hay