

# Phyllis Hall to Uganda

East Africa

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## **Prayers and Patience**

Paul wrote to the church in Colossians 1:11 that he prayed for them to be *"strengthened with all might according to His glorious power unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness."* Somehow, it is not human nature to associate patience and long suffering with joyfulness! That's why it takes the strengthening of the might of His glorious power.

In my last prayer letter, I asked you to pray for our orphans as they were in the village for the short school break between Terms 1 & 2. Thank you for your prayers; they safely returned for Term 2. However, about two weeks into Term 2, one of our Primary level 7 (P7) teachers announced that he was leaving immediately to take a position in a government school. This put us in a difficult situation because P7 has to take their national Primary Leaving Exam (PLE) in early November, and math is the most difficult part of the exam.

The PLE is described as a "high-stake and mandatory exam that certifies the completion of primary education and is a requirement for students wishing to pursue secondary education." The PLE consists of four "papers:" English, science, social studies and math. The hardest paper is math. The math curriculum here is ridiculously difficult for primary school. They study topics you find in high school or even college, like finite math, geometric constructions, base two and base five systems, set theory, bearing and scale drawing and much more. As you can imagine, nationwide, the children get the lowest marks in math (no wonder!).

Not all primary math teachers are certified to teach P5-P7 math. I majored in math in college and taught math here for many years before we hired Ugandan math teachers, and I now have been teaching upper primary Bible. So, they asked me to step in. I haven't taught P7 math for years and every hour of class time takes me about three to four hours of preparation.

That is to say, I have been crazy busy and am sorry for the lateness of this prayer letter!

Teaching for term 2 has ended and now, once again, the children are preparing to go to their villages. I am preparing a packet of math practice problems and answers for the P7 to take with them to study during the break. Please pray for all of our children as they are in their villages during the break. Also, please pray for me for strength for the task at hand. My psoriasis is acting up seriously, and I have been sick the last week because I caught a bad cold virus which is "visiting" our school!

Thank you for your prayers and patience; I need them so much!

Joyfully yours,

*Phyllis Hall*

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Colossians 4:17