

**Spiritual State of the World's Children**

**Uganda**





## **Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY**

#### **Uganda**

October 2008

Prepared by:



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### ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world*. With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



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## Section I: Key Issues Analysis

### **Key Issues**

- Family composition
  - 68% - two parent family
  - 20% - parents are divorced or separated
  - 17% - one parent has died
  - 9% - live with a grandparent
  - 6% - both of their parents have died
  - 2% - do not live with an adult
  
- Perception of Family
  - Definition of family
    - 51% define family as any group of people who live together
    - 23% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
    - 19% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
    - 7% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
  - Function of family
    - Place for children –
      - 37% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
      - 24% consider a single woman with children a family
    - Relationship –
      - 10% consider homosexual women a family
      - 9% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
      - 9% consider cohabiting divorced women a family
      - 8% consider homosexual men a family
  
- Relationship with parents
  - 45% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
  - 18% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
  - 29% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
  - 28% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
  
- Safety and Security of home
  - 43% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
  - 7% are uncomfortable and rather be elsewhere
  
- Marriage
  - 88% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
  - 82% believe God intended marriage to last a life time

- 60% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
- 43% approve of divorce even when children are involved
- 40% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
- 35% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce
- 26% admire single life
  
- Sexuality
  - 22% have had sexual intercourse
  - Most likely to learn about sex from sex-related magazines/books and classmates/friends
  - They are least likely to learn about sex from the internet and parents
  
- Satisfaction with life
  - 50% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 31% somewhat satisfied with their lives
  - 19% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
  - Over the past three months –
    - 69% report watching MTV
    - 60% admit having lied to their peers and 53% indicate they have lied to an adult
    - 53% admit to reading a pornographic magazine or watching a pornographic movie
    - 12% have had suicidal thoughts and 11% attempted suicide
  
- Influences (cited as having a lot of influence over thoughts and actions)
  - 46% Bible
  - 42% Christian faith
  - 37% Parents
  - 35% Textbooks
  - 33% Teachers
  
- Moral behavior
  - 70% feel bending the rules is okay
  - 65% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
  - 63% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
  - 45% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
  
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having a lot of importance)
  - 87% having a degree
  - 85% relationship with God
  - 82% owning a large house
  - 81% living with a high degree of integrity
  
- Religious Practice
  - 96% religion is somewhat or very important to them
  - 72% report weekly or daily prayer
  - 67% participate in weekly or daily religious services
  - 48% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible or Koran
  - 43% participate in weekly or daily religious training class

### ***Strengths & Opportunities***

- Two-thirds of students are positive about their home life
- 81% of students feel somewhat or very satisfied with their lives
- The Bible, Christian faith, parents, and teachers are the most significant sources of influence
- Education and a relationship with God are the two most significant measures of future success
- About three-quarters of students are certain of God's existence
- About 90% accept the fact of Biblical miracles, their responsibility to share their faith, and the virgin birth of Christ
- 85% believe that Scripture provides moral guidance and 80% that Biblical truth is applicable to all people
- 96% indicate that their religion is important to them
- 67% attend weekly or daily religious services; 72% report weekly or daily prayer; 48% report weekly or daily Scripture reading
- Over 80% report having made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still meaningful to them

### ***Weaknesses & Threats***

- Only half report that their parents are married, 17% that one parent has died, and 14% that their parents are divorced or separated
- 56% desire a marriage like their parents, 64% believe that it is difficult to have a successful marriage, and 40% would rather live in a relationship without marriage
- 22% report having engaged in sexual intercourse and younger students are as sexually active as older students
- 59% find sexual activities, including intercourse, to be sometimes or always acceptable if two people are "in love"
- Students are least likely to learn about sex from their parents
- Females and urban students are most likely to spend time watching TV, with 69% reporting that they have watched MTV in the last three months
- 30% have read pornography and 20% have watched pornographic movies in the last three months
- 53% report having lied to an adult
- 24% intentionally engaged in physical violence
- 11% attempted suicide
- Fewer than half believe that you will go to Heaven because you have accepted Jesus Christ
- 58% believe that truth means different things to different people and contradictory truths may still be correct

### ***Research Recommendations***

Forthcoming from Strategic Planning Session in 2008

## **Section II: Project Description**

### ***Acknowledgments***

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - OneHope International.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Ugandan Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, volunteers and the Book of Hope Uganda Staff.

The instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

### ***Overview***

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's *Spiritual State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in Uganda:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

### ***Research Methodology***

The ABY survey is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Uganda. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in English. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible<sup>1</sup> schools segregated by population density (proportional to

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<sup>1</sup> Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.



national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

### ***Project Overview***

The time frame for data collection was March 2008 through June 2008. Michael Bakibinga served as the local Research Coordinator for the Uganda research project. Oversight was provided by Kimberly Morrison and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Survey and assessed by Rene Paulson, Ph.D. The final report employs Dr. Paulson's analysis of the data and is supplemented with secondary data when applicable and primary qualitative data.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

### ***Logistics***

#### Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

#### Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

The Ugandan Ministry of Education provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Book of Hope Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

#### Verifying Access

Contact was made with the Heads of Schools, or their associates, prior to dates of interviews in order to prepare them to discuss the administration of survey instruments. Research Assistants then met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

#### Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

### Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local coordinator in Uganda for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope headquarters representative on or about 12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

### ***Implementation & Survey Administration***

#### Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent identified the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Uganda.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Uganda.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

The following assistants participated in data collection: Francis Onyinge and Francis Mugoga.

#### Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database. The following assisted with data entry: Francis Onyinge, Harriet Onyinge, Alexander Nkurangi, Peter Taremwa, and Susan Kembabazi.

### **Section III: Profile of Youth in Uganda**

#### ***Data Qualifications***

Population density was categorized as rural and urban; in the sample set some of the schools identified as urban were in low density population areas, as a result the statistical analysis of urban populations is under-represented. Additionally, when considering age distribution, analysis of younger population will tend to skew toward female attitudes and older population analysis will tend to skew toward male attitudes.

#### ***Demographic Profile***

Of the 4,476 students responding to this survey, 91% were rural and 9% urban with 51% male and 49% female. Forty percent of subjects were between the ages of 15-16, 28% between 17-18, and 22% between 13-14. Nine percent report being older than 18.

Fifty-seven percent of respondents report that they are in Sec 1 and 2, 34% that they are in Sec 3 and 4, and 9% that they are in HSC 5 and 6. Almost 50% of students in Uganda report doing good in school, with almost one-quarter reporting excellent and average performance. Rural students are more likely to report excellent performance, and urban students are more likely to report good performance.

Overall, 53% report that their fathers' profession is in the agricultural sector. Seventeen percent of respondents indicate their fathers and 13% of their mothers are "other" employed, which may point to unemployment or self employment. Urban students are significantly more likely to report their parents in the "other" category.

Over half (55%) of students report that their parents are married, 17% that one parent has died, and 14% that their parents are either divorced or separated. Fifty-five percent of students report living with both natural parents; rural students are significantly more likely (by 17%) to report living with their natural nuclear family. Thirteen percent indicate that they live in a two-parent home (though one is a step-parent) and an equal number that they live with their mother or stepmother only.

#### ***Family Relationships***

About half of students define family as any group of people who live together, and approximately one-quarter of students define family as people related by birth, adoption, or marriage. Rural students are almost twice as likely to define family as those sharing a common home. Children are an important factor in the definition of family: 76% report that they would consider an unmarried woman and her children family and 63% that they would consider cohabiting unmarried couples with children families, however, only 9% would consider childless cohabiting unmarried couples as family. Roughly equal percentages would accept homosexual couples, male or female, as families.

Forty-three percent of students feel their home is a place of safety and love; one-fifth report feeling their home is a place where they sometimes feel love and an equal amount report it being a place where each person is attempting to love each other. This positive sense of home environment is supported by the 69% of students that indicate their family experience as positive. Overall, Ugandan youth report feeling that the adults in their family demonstrate love for each other, set good examples, spend time with them, and are interested in them. At the same time, they report feeling that adults expect too much of them and are too strict. Rural students are more likely to feel that the adults in their family lack trust for them, fight amongst themselves, but admit when they are wrong or mistaken.

Their relationships with their parents are generally positive. Of the 81% whose father is still alive, 58% report a fairly or very close relationship with their fathers and 75% report a very or fairly close relationship to their mothers. Close relationships with fathers are far more likely to be reported by males and rural students (urban students are more likely to report their father as deceased), while females and rural students are more likely to state that they have a very close relationship with their mothers. However, only 18% spend more than four hours a week in conversation with their fathers and 28% with their mothers.

Approximately 75% of youth report frequently or sometimes feeling proud of their fathers, showing love for their fathers, and feeling their fathers show love for them; almost as many report seeking advice and talking with their fathers about their personal concerns. Males and urban students are more likely to show their love for their fathers. Approximately 83% demonstrate love for their mothers, feel their mothers show love for them, feel proud of their mothers, seek advice from their mothers, and talk with their mothers about personal concerns. Roughly half, however, question their mothers love for them. Similar to male respondents, urban students are twice as likely to spend no time in conversation with their mothers, while rural students are more likely to spend more significant amounts of time talking with their mothers.

Fifty-six percent of those surveyed desire a marriage like their parents' and 88% believe that they will be happy in their own marriages, although 64% report feeling that it is difficult to have a successful marriage. On the other hand, 40% would rather live together outside of marriage and 26% prefer single life.

Forty-three percent of students would prefer to be virgins at marriage, 76% wish that they could regain their virginity if that were possible. Females are far more likely than males to desire remaining a virgin or regaining their virginity for marriage. Less than half (43%) find divorce acceptable even when children are present in the home.

### ***Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex***

Overall, subjects report less involvement as sexual activity becomes more intense and intimate; 66% of students report hand-holding, while 22% of students report having had intercourse. Older students are more likely to report engagement in all activities. Males are more likely than females to report engagement in all activities, and are significantly more likely (almost double) to report engagement in more intense activities. Rural students are also far more likely to report engagement in more intense activities, such as fondling and intercourse.

Forty-nine percent of students feel more intense sexual activities, such as fondling and intercourse, are sometimes or always acceptable, when two people are in "love." Males and rural students are more likely to find the more intense sexual activities acceptable. The intention to marry seems to be the most likely justification for sexual intercourse, followed by being in love. The encouragement of friends is the least likely influence on the decision to have sexual intercourse.

Students are more likely to learn about sex from sex-related books/magazines and textbooks, followed by classmates/friends, and TV/movies. The internet and parents are the least likely sources of information about sex. Male students are more likely to learn about sex from classmates/friends, TV/movies, and the internet. The internet and TV/movies are more likely to be information sources for urban students, as are TV/movies and classmates/friends for older students.

### ***Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life***

Eighty-one percent of students report being very or somewhat satisfied with their lives; just under one-fifth report being not too or not at all satisfied. Their free time is most likely filled with studying school materials or reading a book. Less likely, but regular activities include listening to music and reading the Bible. Females and urban students are the most likely groups to spend time watching TV. Rural students also report far more time spent reading the Bible, books, and sleeping. Younger students are more likely than older students to spend their time listening to music or reading a book. The most influential new cultural product is electronic media (MP3, cell phone, laptop computers), followed by fashion magazines; the least influential product is blogging. Females are more likely to find fashion magazines of interest, and younger students Hip-Hop.

Students cited the Bible (63%) as the greatest source of influence in their lives, followed the Christian faith, parents, teachers, friends, textbooks, and siblings. In descending order, Islam, New Age religions, Buddhism, and Hinduism were the least influential. Thirty-three percent of students indicated national political leaders as sources of influence in their lives. Females are more likely than males to cite the Bible, siblings, parents, and the Christian faith as sources of influence in their lives. Rural students are more likely than urban students to be influenced by the Bible, siblings, teachers, the Christian faith, and other religious faiths; urban students name television, movies, internet, Islam, and national political leaders as influential.

Over the past three months, 69% of subjects report watching MTV, about 30% read pornography, and 20% watched pornographic movies. Students are more likely to have lied to their peers (60%) or to an adult (53%). Of greater concern are the 11% who attempted suicide and the 24% who have intentionally engaged in physical violence; younger students are more likely to report having attempted to hurt someone physically. Finally, 22% report having gambled. Males are more likely to report having used some type of illegal drug, being drunk, or gambling, while females are more likely to report lying to both adults and peers.

When asked to define the factors for measuring success in the future, students identified as the most important in descending order: having a degree, having a close relationship with God, owning a large house, living with a high degree of integrity, having a comfortable lifestyle, and working in a high-paying job. The least desired future condition is having influence in others' lives. Males and older students are more likely to desire a fulfilling sex life within marriage for the future than their counterparts. Rural students are significantly more likely to want activity in a church and having influence in other's lives, and are more likely to desire close, personal friendships. Urban students, on the other hand, are more likely to value good physical health, a high-paying job, a comfortable lifestyle, and to make a difference in the world.

### ***Religious Background and Practice***

Eighty-one percent of subjects indicate that they are Christian, 43% Protestant and 38% Catholic, and 12% that they are Islamic. In this sample, the rural youth are significantly more likely to be Roman Catholic and significantly less likely to be Islamic. Eighty-nine percent consider their faith important in their lives; about the same number feel church membership is important. They also believe the universe was created by God, yet 73% are certain that God exists. Eighty-one percent believe that if God exists, He is the omniscient, omnipotent Creator of the universe, with urban students more likely to hold this belief. Seven percent believe that everyone is god and 5% that God refers to the realization of human potential. Ninety-one percent of students believe that Biblical miracles actually took place; almost as many believe they have a personal responsibility to tell others about their faith (89%) and Christ's virgin birth (88%).

Around 80% believe good works gain entrance to Heaven, that Jesus was a real person, and that those who do not believe in Him will go to Hell. Although 87% believe in the judgment of God, only 58% indicate belief in the reality of Heaven and Hell and 56% that there is an afterlife for the human soul. In reference to the afterlife, 46% believe that access to Heaven is gained through acceptance of Jesus Christ and 30% that access to Heaven is gained through religious rites. Nine percent believe that good works gain eternal access to Heaven; almost as many do not know what will happen after death. Younger students and rural youth are far more likely (younger by 11% rural by 12%) to believe that religious rites are essential for Heaven. Females are more likely to be certain in God's existence, as are urban students.

Eighty-five percent believe that Scriptures provide guidance to moral truth and 80% that this truth is the same for all people. However, 84% believe that people of various religions essentially pray to the same God and approximately two-thirds uphold a more pragmatic view of morality in their own lives, as shown by the acceptance of lying when felt necessary (65%). Fifty-eight percent find truth to mean different things to different people, and about as many feel contradictory truths may still be correct. Males are less likely to see a connection between satisfaction in life and spiritual development or church membership; they are more likely to feel that what they do for others is more important than their belief in Christ, that Jesus committed sins while on earth, that some sins are unforgivable, and that the idea of sin is outdated. Urban students also doubt the value of spiritual pursuits and are generally more pragmatic, although they indicate that the Scriptures provide practical standards for living; they are significantly more likely to accept rule-bending and law-breaking, and more likely to lie. Rural students are significantly more likely than urban students to believe that some sins are unforgivable (by 18%) and that Christ committed sins while on earth (by 12%). They are also far more likely to believe in reincarnation (by 13%), that all religions believe the same truths (by 13%), that all religions essentially pray to the same God (by 9%), but that acceptance of Christ is mandatory for Heaven (by 8%). Older students are far more likely to condone rule-bending and law-breaking, and are more likely to find truth to be different things to different people than their younger counterparts.

### ***Religious Practice***

Ninety-six percent of respondents indicate that their religion is somewhat or very important to their lives. Students report having heard about the Bible or Jesus from the following sources: 92% Church, 86% missionaries, 85% family/relatives, and 79% friends. Rural youth are far more likely to have heard from missionaries (by 11%), and more likely to have heard from churches.

Sixty-seven percent of students report attending weekly or daily services; this is slightly more frequent than their other family members. For those regularly attending youth group meetings, 19% of students are more likely to attend youth groups of 20-29 people, 16% for groups of 1-9 people, and 15% for groups of 30-39. Rural students are far more likely to attend larger youth group size of 30-39 people than urban students. When they graduate from high school, 91% of students indicate that they are very or somewhat likely to regularly attend religious services; males and rural students are more likely to anticipate attendance.

Seventy-two percent report weekly or daily practice of prayer (86% indicate a confidence that prayer can change what happens in life). Scripture reading is engaged by 48% on either a daily or weekly basis and 85% believe in the Bible's accuracy. Rural students are far more likely than urban students to engage in all activities, except prayer which shows no difference between population densities.

With about 93 % responding to this question, 85% report having made a commitment to Jesus Christ. One-third of students who report having made a commitment to Jesus Christ indicate that they made this decision between the ages of 13-15. Approximately one-quarter made the decision between the ages of 16-18, and about one-fifth between the ages of 9-12. Urban students are far more likely to have accepted Christ between the ages of 9-12, and rural students more likely to have made this decision between the ages of 13-15.

**Section IV: Uganda Secondary Data**

**Secondary Research  
Profile  
UGANDA**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Total Population	29,395,836
Population under age 15	50%
Estimated urban vs. rural population	3,432,000 / 24,191,000
Personal computers (per capita)	8.676 per 1 million people
Mobile phone subscribers (per capita)	52.926 per 1 million people
Radios per capita	183.358 per 1,000 people
Televisions per capita	18.3358 per 1,000 people
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy rate (over 15)	66.8%
Primary completion rate	57.12%
ECONOMICS	
Real Gross Domestic Product (billions of US dollars)	7.171
Real GDP Growth Rate %	6.700
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line) (2001)	35%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index <sup>2</sup> (out of 177)	505	Prisoners (per capita)	Not available
Divorce Rate as percent of Marriages	Not Available	People living with HIV AIDS (per 1,000)	21.106
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	Children orphaned by HIV AIDS 0-14 years	884,000
Murder (per capita) 1,000 people	Not available	Children Underweight Rate	7%
Suicide: Male per 100,000 Female per 100,000	Not available	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs, births per 1,000)	206.52
Male Alcoholism	Not Available	Child Prostitution	Not Available
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Other	23%	Roman Catholic	33%
Baganda	17%	Protestant	33%
Karamajong	12%	Indigenous beliefs	18%
Basoga	8%	Muslim	4%
Iteso	8%		

This data is drawn from CountryWatch.com, World Health Organization, and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

<sup>2</sup> Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.



Langi	6%		
Rwanda	6%		
Bagisu	5%		
Acholi	4%		
Lugbara	4%		
Bunyoro	3%		
Batoro	3%		
European, Asian, Arab, Banyankole	1%		
<b>LANGUAGES</b>			
English (official), Luganda, Swahili, Bantu languages, and Nilotic languages			