



OURGANDA

Let's ignite hope. Let's change things.

What if 1,197 Couples Sign the Agreement?

Dear Friend,

I hope you are having a good new year so far. Some truly encouraging things are happening in Uganda that I want to pass along to you. I'll try to be brief!

We all are thrilled with the impact of **Esther's Army**, the label we give to the team of domestic violence volunteers she leads. In mid-2023, she and her colleagues set a goal that seemed unthinkable.

"At least 90 percent of the men in our villages who abuse their wives will trade violence for kindness within 18 months."

Two weeks ago, I asked Esther in an email, "How close have you and your team come to reaching that goal?" When my eyes read her reply, I was amazed. "Yes," she said, "we have reduced the number of men who abuse their wives by 90%." She went on to share some raw numbers. "Out of 1,900 men in our villages who used to abuse their wives, approximately 1,710 no longer do."



Esther is not one to say 'Mission Accomplished!' and sit in a La-Z-Boy. What's next?

Two things.

1. Esther wants to **expand the domestic violence (DV) program** to at least four more villages.

2. She has set a new goal of convincing **70% of former abusers to sign Ourganda's Family Agreement** by the end of 2025. She did the exact math and came up with 1,197 (1,710 x 70% = 1,197).

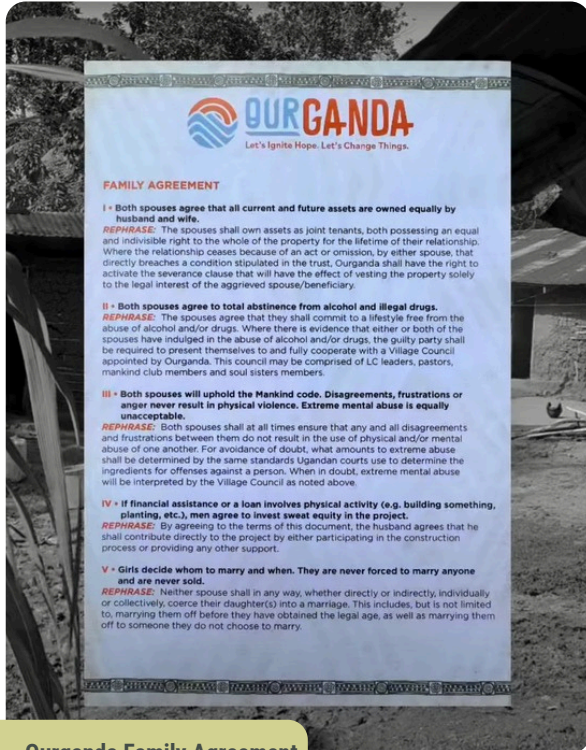


Four More Villages

- If we decide to expand the DV program to four more villages, *we need to increase the budget*. Things like supplies and training for new Mankind & Soul Sisters members; transportation costs; funds to facilitate the police to travel to the villages when abusers refuse to choose kindness, and legal fees. We will also need to hire another associate to work on Esther's team.
- We aren't sure whether it's wise to move into four new villages with the DV program without simultaneously offering our other services like mobile medical clinics, micro-business training, and child protection. If we decide to expand our entire program from 10 to 14 villages, **we are talking major expansion**.

Family Agreement

- The Family Agreement is an innovative tool that Ourganda is rolling out in our villages. It's a list of nine commitments that husbands and wives make to each other. Things like, If we have girls, we will never force them to marry someone they don't love. All property is owned equally by husband and wife. Frustrations or anger never result in physical violence or extreme mental abuse.
- Esther's goal of 1,197 couples signing the agreement in 2025 seems crazy, but what if it happens? And whatever the number is at the end of the year, our villages will be safer, happier, more peaceful places when hundreds of families agree to do their best to live in harmony.



Ourganda Family Agreement



I bet you have questions and/or have some feedback. **Would you take a few minutes to send me a text or an email?** If you have a brainstorm or want to talk further, I always have time for a Zoom call or phone call. And if you are able to send a generous gift, please do. We will be thankful, but Esther and her team will appreciate it even more.

Thanks for letting me know, and thank you for praying!

- Online: Scan this QR code or visit ourganda.org/donate
- Phone: Call 360-624-7271
- Email: getintouch@ourganda.org
- Mail: Send a check made payable to Ourganda to **PO Box 874205; Vancouver WA 98687**

