

We ended 2017 rejoicing at what the Lord has done through the friends of Say Yes International. And we are filled with much hope that even greater things will be accomplished in 2018. After all, hope is defined as "the joyful expectation of good." It's time to take the limits off God and move forward with confidence that the plans He has for us will surely come to pass.



We finally have a picture of Pastor Joseph's son! He looks to be a big boy, eh? Young Joseph will soon be a year old. However, he is a bit sick with some kind of skin disease. We will help Joseph with the cost of diagnosis and treatment; currently waiting to hear more on this.

Pastor Joseph continues to work on building his house as he is able. He makes bricks to sell and also for his own house. The piggery Say Yes started for him is doing well – the sow recently



had another litter. Pastor Joseph plans to give one of the piglets to a church member to hopefully start their own piggery. The house has a long way to go but Joseph keeps plugging away at it for the sake of his little family.



We are making plans to be in Uganda again in September. As always, we have a lot we would like to do. We believe the Lord is prompting us to do a major event - at least it's major for us. It's a bit unusual but very exciting. We want to bring together the people Say Yes has helped to start a business. The logistics of this is going to be a real piece of work in more ways than one. Each business owner will need round trip transport, food and lodging. And we'll need to find meeting space, food for a big meal together and a love gift for each one. Our goal for doing this is to capture the testimony to share with you, our partners. It will also be an excellent opportunity for each participant to hear the stories of fellow Ugandans – what worked,

what didn't work so well, and/or how to do something better. This will be a great encouragement for all of us, as well as an awesome time of rejoicing at what the Lord has done!

As this event will be a large part of our travel/ministry budget for the trip we are asking for financial help to make it happen. We could have as many as 24 or more in attendance, so we're thinking a budget of about \$2000 should do. This is far beyond and above what we typically do, but it is good to honor our brethren in the Lord and this kind of event does just that. And it will be a great way to kick off the beginning of Year 10 for Say Yes as an approved nonprofit charity serving the poor and needy families, orphans and widows of Uganda. Thank you so much for giving this your thoughtful consideration.

Pastor David recently posted the picture to the right on FaceBook. It is a current water hole just 14 miles outside of Kampala that people use to fill their jeri cans. They know to boil it before using but it's apparent that doesn't kill all the bacteria and germs as many are frequently sick with cholera, typhoid and other water borne diseases. On occasion Say Yes has been able to help start, finish and/or maintain bore holes



(water wells) in Uganda, which is helping an untold number of people get access to good water. Most recently we paid to have a well dug for Paul Mukisa Evans, SYI Liaison, in the Mokono District. (Check out the YouTube video here: <u>https://youtu.be/LfzNY5r1W-M</u>).

However, not long ago we became aware of water filters made here in the USA that can filter as much as **1 MILLION gallons of water**! And they are super easy to use and keep clean. Because of very generous Say Yes donors we are able to purchase 50 filters, which we will take with us in September. This will be a precious gift not only for clean water but also as a business opportunity. People often purchase five-gallon jeri cans of water not knowing the source from which it came. This will surely be the best water of all! Hallelujah!

Praise report just in as of January 22nd – Pastor David reached out to Say Yes for assistance in getting his children treated for typhoid and malaria, as did Pastor Jonah just a few days ago. Because of your faithful giving we were able to respond to the needs immediately by sending enough funds for diagnosis, treatment and plenty of fluids. We love how God puts things together! This is what we get to "say yes" to in 2018 and it's because you are standing with us!

Thank you for your prayerful support of what Say Yes is doing. We truly enjoy sharing what God is doing in Uganda because of you. If you haven't already, perhaps you'd like to join the *Say Yes \$25 Club*. You will join other like-minded folks who understand that when many people come together with a consistent monthly donation we can move mountains! These funds enable Say Yes to satisfy a myriad of needs such as food, medicine and other medical treatment, shelter, clothing, tuition, transportation, business start-ups, etc.

With grateful hearts,

Virgil & Joy

Virgil & Joy Ricks 541-979-3539

Say Yes International is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit public charity; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.