



March 2018

***Compassion is love projected upon a need – Jesus is moved by compassion;
He is full of eager yearning to touch the lives of people. (James Maloney)***

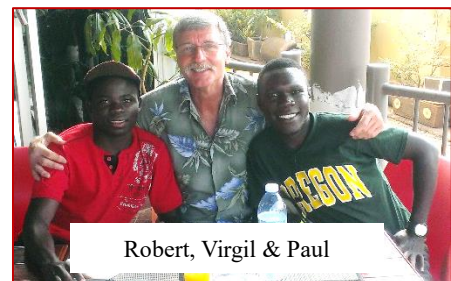
Consider these facts if you were a certain orphan living in Uganda:

- You're 20 or 23 years of age
- You are educated through vocational school, thanks to the kindness of generous hearts making it possible
- You have no father figure in your life; the biological father left long ago
- You work when work is available
- You are incredibly grateful when occasionally someone (usually from the US) finds out you don't have much to eat and need help with rent and they send funds for the immediate need
- You love the Lord; but the daily struggle is very real
- You have dreams of being the man your father was not - either because he died too soon or abandoned you

We could go on and on with more facts, but you've heard it all before. And many of you, if not all, have responded to the cry for help. Oftentimes the response is very often to satisfy the immediate need – which is good and necessary. But what about the long term? Is there hope and a future for these young people? We say not only yes, but a resounding **YES!** We've seen it happen and it's all because of the Say Yes donors. We may be a small group but we're powerful and lives are being impacted over and over again.

Now let's put a face to those facts: Robert - a 20-year old orphan who fits all of the above facts. Robert and his four siblings were abandoned by their parents when Robert was around 10 years old. Robert did all he could to keep his sisters and brother together – even resorting to begging. It wasn't long before they were scooped up by a loving NGO and began to thrive. Someone once asked Robert why he bothered caring for his siblings. His answer: "because I don't have the heart of my earthly father." That young boy

is now grown up and we have the privilege of sowing into his young adult life. He has gone through some very challenging times of late. He was able to get through vocational school because of the NGO, where he learned to work on small electrical units. However, he has "aged out of the system" so to speak and is now on his own. He needs a friend, a mentor, someone to encourage him, and to help him find his way as a young adult. Thankfully, Paul Mukisa Evans, the Say Yes Liaison in Uganda, has stepped in to help Robert. That's one "yes."



Robert, Virgil & Paul

We had set some money aside for Robert to start a business when he graduated vocational schooling. When we told him about it he was filled with a joyful expectation of good, which equals a good dose of "hope!" Paul and Robert went together to locate a store front/sleeping

room, which is now secured. Paul is helping him understand the responsibilities of owning a business. They are visiting with people Robert knows who are already in business and asking the appropriate questions...thus the friendship and mentoring is growing. By the time you receive this newsletter Robert will have purchased a sufficient supply of inventory to begin selling and will look for work as an electrical installer for small jobs. That's another "yes."



Another face to put on those facts is Denis: We shared his story in September 2017 and it has gotten better. Because of a Say Yes donor we were able to send Denis to brake repair training and to purchase a kiosk to work from and sell small car parts. After he finishes one month of training we will be able to purchase the machine for him to start his own business right next to the mechanic shop where he works! All this because someone responded to the prompting of Holy Spirit. Yet another "yes." Whatever Denis does he will be faithful to share the Good News of Jesus Christ –

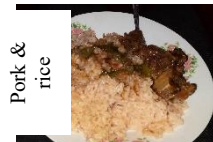
with children, young people and co-workers; he will preach, sing or dance in honor of the King.

A quick, fun story about Denis – we were talking with him in early February about this business idea and just before saying good-bye Virgil asked if he had enough food and when was the last



Chicken & fries

time he ate meat? He had to think about it for a minute and finally said it was in December sometime. That didn't surprise us as it is quite common. Of course we sent him enough money (\$20) to get himself a solid meal with plenty of



Pork & rice

meat...he was very happy and sent picture proof of his meal right after church the next day!

We will be with both young men in September when we go to Uganda. It will be great fun to see what the Lord has done in their lives. You'll be among the first to hear the good news upon our return!

Doesn't this kind of stuff just make you want to smile? There are so many stories like Robert and Denis in Uganda. We are able to touch just a few lives, but a small pebble thrown in a pond still makes ripples. These two lives have been impacted with the love of Christ. They will, in turn, impact other lives with the same kind of love. We are the pebbles that start the ripple and we get to be "thrown" into this pond of lives many times over. Thank you for helping us keep that ripple effect going! One way to do that is by joining the **Say Yes \$25 Club**. This monthly giving **Club** is a great way to invest your love into another life.

Thank you again for standing with us as together we reach out in the love of Christ.

With grateful hearts,

Virgil & Joy

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