



April 2018

Compassion is love projected upon a need



This is Denis Colins – he pretty much personifies the above statement. Denis is the brother of Paul Mukisa Evans. When their parents died (dad in 1991 and mom in 2004) Denis was left to fend for himself at the age of 17. His older siblings were gone and Paul was taken into an orphanage as he was just 12 at the time. So Denis was left in charge of the home his mother lived in and managed to grow some crops for food. He attended government school but didn't know what his future looked like. His elder brother finally had Denis join him in Mbale and helped him attend university. But he wasn't always able to provide the school fees so Denis would often miss semesters. When he was able to attend school he would walk many kilometers to get there, using the 1,000 shillings his brother would give him (about 30 cents in today's money) for a bit of food. The older brother eventually got a teaching job and was able to have Denis teach a few classes and get paid some little money for it.

Denis finally graduated university with a degree in social work and social administration. Somehow he met up with a woman who wanted to start an NGO (charitable organization). But she was in the USA at the time, so she hired Denis to do all the footwork to get the papers filed. It was a long, slow process but he was successful in getting the NGO approved through the Ugandan government. He was very much looking forward to working with the organization. However, when the founder returned to Uganda, Denis was "sacked" in favor of family members, which is an all too common practice. He was left with nothing and it took quite some time to get paid for the work he had done. He was very discouraged.

Denis was able to find a few occasional part-time jobs but had no hope for a a secure income in the foreseeable future. He was getting further and further behind in his rent and had very little food. At the time he was supporting three vulnerable children (either abandoned or total orphans) and had taken in a young teenager off the streets, and now he was not able to keep up with those commitments. So he decided to get counsel from a trusted pastor. This pastor recommended that Denis think about a business he would like to do and then approach Say Yes with his proposal. That's how we found out about his situation.

He presented his idea of opening a roadside food stand to us (basically a small restaurant). We chatted with him for some time and asked questions as to his vision and what he expected from the business. We sent him some little money in April of 2017 (\$210) and helped him get caught up with his rent.





Denis & Sarah

Since that time he was able to secure a bank loan and has moved forward fairly well, at least he is able to continue to pay his own personal expenses and those of the business. He is engaged to be married soon and his fiancé, Sarah, is working right by his side in the restaurant. He's still in need of a deep freezer (about \$200-\$250) and a molded firewood stove. We fully expect this business to increase because the favor of God rests on the owner.

Unfortunately, just a few weeks ago he was walking home and some thugs attacked him – knocked him out and shoved him in the ditch. They stole the little money he had and his phone. Thankfully he was not too badly hurt, although this certainly put a dent in his plans to move forward. Say Yes has since replaced the funds that were stolen (about \$53 USD) for which he is extremely grateful. In his words: *"...Forever am grateful by your love and by your surprises... I am just strong and hard working. That's what life has taught me and also to trust God that one day I will be also fine. There's hope. Just that in the whole of my life I have lived a life of struggle throughout but it's fine. A strong boy. Thank you for standing with me at some point. God bless you."*

But hear this: the passion in this young man's heart is to help others. Particularly the young and vulnerable kids of Uganda – kids who are growing up without parents, without family to help give them guidance, without anyone to care enough to introduce them to Jesus. This is the heart God put in Denis - -the kind of heart we want to connect with. How about you?

This is another life that has been touched by the friends and partners of Say Yes International. We hope you are encouraged to see what your prayers and support do to help others – you can see that it doesn't take much. But the fact that someone cared is the main key. This is huge to Denis and others like him. Thank you so much for your heart to match the cry.

Many are the blessings of the Lord – may they be multiplied to you in abundance.

Virgil & Joy

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