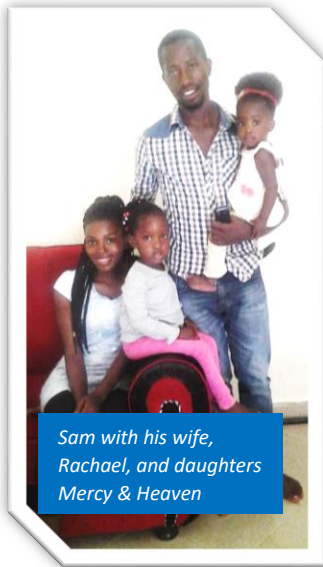




January 2019

Knowing you are loved and cared for creates a certain confidence in your heart – wouldn't you agree? Because of the tangible expression of love, as demonstrated by Say Yes when he received help with his business, the young man in the story below is able to say with confidence that he "is running out of poverty."



Sam with his wife, Rachael, and daughters Mercy & Heaven

This is Part I of Sam's story: Sembuya Samuel Jacklewison (aka Sam Jackson).

We met Sam in 2010 in a brickyard. He is the youngest of 11 children (10 boys & 1 girl). The family history prior to his grandfather was deep into witchcraft. His grandfather was encouraged to follow the family ways so he would be rich. But he chose to listen to missionaries and decided to follow Jesus only. He told his children and grandchildren to stay with God no matter what. And they did – they all stayed away from witchcraft, even though the extended family remains entrenched in it and have become a very wealthy family as a result. Sam says his dad remained poor and uneducated for the rest of his life.

Sam's mom died when he was about three years old. His mom's very good friend saw the poor life Sam's dad was providing for him and decided to take Sam to live with her. He called her his Grandmother (jaja). Thankfully, she was able to keep him in primary school.

There was a time when Sam went back to live with his dad for one year. But life was hard – his dad could only afford a small one-room "house" made of old iron sheets with holes. The holes were big enough for people to see into the room and when it rained they would have to move around so as not to get wet. Sam would sleep on the only chair in the house while his dad and stepmom slept on the bed on the floor. Definitely not a healthy situation! Sam felt he had to leave this environment and returned to live with the jaja who he had stayed with before.

However, when Sam was 13 his dad's sister took him to live with her. But he still struggled as there wasn't always enough money to pay for school fees. For example, he didn't have the 80,000 shillings he needed to attend the second semester of Senior 1. So he sold pancakes and samosas for three months but was only able to save 30,000 shillings. Consequently he was able to complete just 12 of the 17 exams required to finish Senior 1. Even at that he was number 3 in his class! His teacher recognized his ability and desire to learn so he helped Sam get a sponsor through Senior 5.

	Uganda Shillings	Exchange rate to US Dollar
1 semester tuition	80,000	about \$22
saved over 3 months	30,000	about \$8
lacked to attend the full semester	50,000	about \$14

Sam still had to look for the money on his own to attend Senior 6 – the final class in a Uganda high school. He started making bricks to help him get through that final year.

This type of lifestyle for children, being shifted between family members, is not atypical in Uganda. Sam often found favor with people because he was so diligent to learn and to work, which is why he received an education at all!

We will finish Sam’s story in the next newsletter. But for now we’d like to tell you about his future.

Sam now has a dream to own property in order to grow cash crops such as vanilla (very high desired crop) and bananas. Because we have seen his diligence, heard his passion, and know him to be a man who follows Jesus with his whole heart....we want to see him achieve his dream. Say Yes would like to help Sam purchase one acre of land that is situated in the best location in Uganda to grow vanilla. The cost is 10 million shillings with title included – about \$2700 US dollars. Sam already has plans as to how he will tend to the crop, protect it, and even use government assistance to fertilize the soil. He has done his due diligence and sees this as an opportunity to take a step up in life.



Example of a vanilla plant

We are asking you to consider a donation to Say Yes for this very purpose – to help a resourceful and dedicated young man take a step up. We are assured that as he does he will help others do likewise.

Please stayed tuned for the next part of Sam’s story – it’s so good!

Of course, the reason we even know Sam’s story is because Say Yes has helped him with his business endeavors. Whether you have or have not experienced such challenges in life as Sam you can surely understand the value of knowing someone actually cares about you. Extending a hand of love is such a gift – for the recipient and the giver. Thank you again and again for helping Say Yes be the *heart to match the cry*... We want to make the love of Jesus famous as we help people “run out of poverty.”

Enjoy the blessings of the Lord,



Virgil & Joy

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