

Development Team Update... cool stuff happening!

Following the progression of the pictures below you'll see just a hint of the hard work it took to get this gi-normous water tank in place on top of the water stand! At first there were the four Development Team members; then they got a few more; and then they reached out and got some villagers to come help them. This was a huge task to accomplish without the help of any hydraulics. But a whole lot of brawn and some ingenuity won the day and VOILA! The tank is in place – YAY! And the electricity was connected the same day so the pump for the well is in place and the water is flowing just like it should. These guys – Sam, Paul, Denis & KD – are rightfully proud of a good day's work!

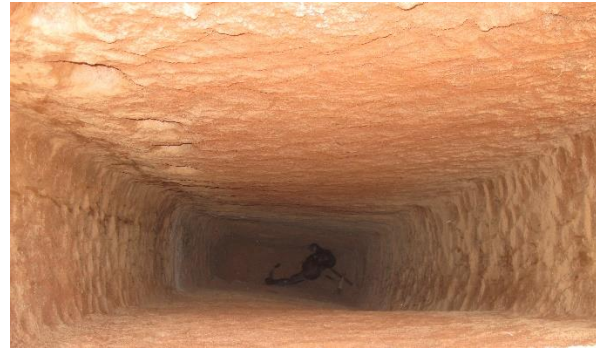


The Development Team gathered on the land with their families on Thursday, June 13th, to offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for such an awesome gift – one that no one in this group ever in their lives would have thought possible! They prayed protection over the land and for wisdom for the Team as they continue to make plans on how best to utilize this amazing opportunity not only for themselves but for others.

Of course, such endeavors very often present just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's next. The Development Team planted bananas and vanilla on the two acres. Vanilla is a very valuable crop and attracts the attention of those who would rather use it for themselves (thieves). So it's imperative we protect this investment. You already know we have paid to have a fence erected around the entire property. Now we need to focus on getting a latrine built to accommodate someone to stay on the grounds to water and weed the plants. Eventually we will need to hire gunmen – yep...a gunman at each end of the property to be able to see from all points. That's how valuable this crop is. Back to the latrine – this will require about \$2000 for two stalls and a bathing stall. We know for certainty the Team is thoroughly committed to this project, which makes this kind of investment worth it. Here's what it looks like to start a pit latrine – no flushing toilet, no water, just a hole with cement over it and brick walls. The bathhouse is just 4 walls with a door and a wash basin. Simple is a nice word for it....sort of....



These guys hold the rope that tied around the bucket of dirt so they can pull it up and then they eventually pull the guy up



If you look REAL close you'll see a dark spot down in this hole (the pit latrine). That's the guy doing the digging! He wanted a sweetie so we threw one down to him - ☺

Since we're talking about latrines – Denis Colins needs one on his newly purchased land, too. We got some great news from Denis the other day. We initially paid for a plot for Denis & Sarah that had been split to 100x100. But the owner decided that since the rest of the land was basically not doing her any good she would let Denis have that, too, and he can pay her when he is able! She even allowed him to include the extra land in the title document – quite amazing! And then he found out the land has spring fed water on it! WAHOO! He'll be able to eventually have a well dug to supply his family and crops. What a blessing! But first things first....the latrine is a must as is a fence around the property to, once again, protect the investment. Your prayers and donations are appreciated!!! Denis and Sarah plan to raise rabbits on this property, grow crops, build their home and then a daycare/kindergarten school. These are all great ideas and very achievable because we serve a God who cares about every jot and tittle that concerns us. He is more than able! These projects will be a huge asset to the greater community, too!

An update regarding our trip – we are reaching our budget goal slowly by slowly, as they say in Uganda. God has already done so much and we know He never leaves us hanging or a job half-way done. We declare the funds will come in at just the right time. We are even asking God about the wisdom of purchasing a used vehicle. This will be available to us during our entire stay and then be used by the Development Team during the rest of the year. It would be a great benefit to all of them and to any Say Yes projects that come up. Yes – all things truly are possible with the God we serve!

In the abundant love of Christ,

Virgil & Joy

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