



May 2019

We're off to Uganda in September for five months! We believe our mandate is to spend much time teaching and mentoring the Development Team in the Word of God and about His Kingdom Culture. We want to instill in these young men and women what the Word has to say about Kingdom finances and doing business God's way, which is usually at odds with the earthly culture we live in. That is our primary focus but we will have lots of time to love on our Ugandan neighbors! We know God will show us the opportunities and open doors of ministry to us.



The **Development Team** continues to make huge strides in securing the crops on the land purchased for them by Say Yes. They are currently installing a fence around the land. It is common in the rural areas to allow cows and chickens to go wherever they want, including land that has new plants on it...like the bananas and vanilla! Yikes! We had to hurry to get this fence going to prevent additional damage. It is labor intensive but so worth the effort! The well and water tank stand is inside the fence, too. The plants are getting established nicely, as you can see below – that's a new banana tree with a bright new green leaf! Electricity should be available to the land soon (an ongoing promise), which means the pump will be operational when that happens. It's been raining so the land remains moist enough to nourish the plants.



Fencing supplies



Fencing installed



Land w/bananas & vanilla plants;
water tank stand in background



New banana tree leaf

On a different note, here is an interesting story to give more insight into life in Uganda. It's about a wonderful Jajja (Grandmother) – Pastor Nampima Margaret...a faithful woman of God:

Margaret is Sam Jackson's grandmother (the Sam from earlier stories we have shared). She is 82 and has been a widow since 2004 – although her husband left her long before he died and took another wife; he was no longer around to help her out. Sam recently took her gifts to show his love and gratitude. When Sam shared with her what the Lord is doing in his life, she glorified God (*see video attached in the email*).



Margaret is a pastor. She started a church many years ago of about 20 people in a distant village. Eventually 15 of those people moved on to another church in the same village. That left her with 4 people. She would spend 5000 shillings (about \$1.36 USD) to travel from her home to this little church to pastor the remaining four people for over four years! And now one of those has passed away. Many people have encouraged her to give up on the church. But she insists on continuing – even at the age of 82! She goes on Friday night for overnight prayers and is often the only one there. She says she will never stop encouraging the people to pray. She preaches the truth and “calls a spade a spade not a big spoon.”

Margaret raised four children of her own. One of them was Sam's dad who eventually had 11 children, Sam being the youngest. He was quite poor, which meant several of his kids eventually went to live with Margaret (their grandmother). Not only did she raise many of his kids, but some of her other grandchildren came as well. Then her neighbor passed away and no one knew what to do with her three children. So, you guessed it – Margaret took the three girls in. One of them eventually went to another pastor's home. The other two remained with her for eight more years. All the while, with the grandchildren she already had with her and the two girls she adopted, Margaret was selling samosas to a high school and a primary school. That income is what she used to feed, clothe, and pay tuition for all the kids she was supporting in her home. Fortunately people in the church helped her with clothing as oftentimes the kids had no other change of clothes.

During the time Margaret was selling samosas she was able to set a little bit aside to start paying off the land the church was located on. The church now owns that land because of her. However, she had to stop making samosas because working over the open fire was affecting her health. She has since taken up selling tap water. It's the income from this little business that she is able to continue going to the church.



These are children visiting with Margaret – probably her great-grands.

She is now caring for five more children. Remember the two girls she adopted? Well they got married, had children, and then both husbands abandoned them. They had to find work in the big city so they asked the jajja to take the children, and, of course, she did. One of the moms sends money to help Margaret out, as do some of her other children.

Now at 82 Margaret continues to raise children, worship her God, pray at her church, and preach to three people. Hers is a life of preferring others over herself. (*Romans 12:10*)

Sam is awed by his grandma and says “her life challenges me so much.” And we are equally challenged!

We hope you enjoy these monthly newsletters – soon they will be coming straight from Uganda! Please feel free to let us know if you have questions or comments. We’d love to hear from you.

By the way, Annet (Paul’s mother-in-law) who had the brain clot continues to improve daily. The family is staying with Paul & Leticia (there were up to 13 people in his little home at one time!). They expect to return to their home in the slum in the next few weeks. We will keep track of what is going on in their lives. Thanks for praying for them!

Blessings – may you know the good plans God has for you!

Virgil & Joy

541-979-3539

www.sayyesinternational.org



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