

The calendar tells us it's time to say Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to y'all back home, although it doesn't feel like the holiday season here. We typically associate cold weather with the end of the year, but that's definitely not the case in Uganda. Sometime soon the weather will transition from the wet season to the dry season, which means we'll be hot. Ugandans love the Christmas holiday – they will do all they can to have a “feast” and visit with friends and family. But they don't do gift exchanges like we do in the states. And that suits us just fine. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with our Ugandan family.

We are more than half way through our five-month commitment here; the next two months will likely breeze by in a hurry! We still have much we want to see accomplished and Virgil continues to teach on Kingdom Culture. The Team is becoming a family and the Lord is glorified.

We mentioned some pressing needs in the last newsletter for which we have good news:

Paul & Leticia now have the inside of their home completely plastered; the floors are being cemented this week. This is an awesome accomplishment – it will be a much healthier environment for Triny and the rat problem will be greatly reduced! They will be able to use the entire house now, instead of just one room. We hope to help them get tile on the floors sometime in the near future as cement floors are still quite rough.

There is a crew on Paul's farm to dig the well deeper. The well is already 120 feet deep. The guy that goes in the well is placing brick on the sides of the well as he goes, so the digging part is a slow process. However, they have gone down at least an additional five feet or more and are removing water as they go, which is a good sign. We watched as one young man prepared to be lowered into the well – all he had around his bottom was the rope attached to the pulley. It was a bit concerning to us but super normal for them. Paul already has neighbors asking if he plans to sell water as they are having to walk 1-2 kilometers one way to fetch water in cans and then carry those heavy cans back up hill! Once the well is delivering a steady flow of water it will be a huge asset to the nearby community as well as for Paul's pigs, chickens, one cow and crops.



We also expect to make the last payment on the land Say Yes helped Denis & Sarah Colins purchase – that's a big relief! This was an unexpected expense we found out about when we arrived Uganda, so we are very happy to have this off the list! It's a prime piece of land with water on it – perfect for fish ponds, rabbits & chickens. Denis & Sarah will eventually build their house on the land. They already planted many banana trees and others crops like maize, eggplant, cabbage-like stuff, cassava, etc.

Here's a “see what God loves to do” kind of story. Denis “KD” Buyinza is the mechanic we've often mentioned in our newsletters. He and his partners have an outdoor auto shop, which makes life difficult when it rains because they can't work on the cars. Recently we received a donation specifically for KD to put up a cover over their work area! They got busy and the cover was up in no time flat – just in time for the next rain! But there's more to this story. The three partners, along with KD's spare parts kiosk, have picked up enough business to allow two partners with families to



pay school fees for their children to attend better schools. They are also able to give the three young men who have worked with them for some time enough pay to help them rent a room on their own; they no longer stay with their parents. More business is coming to the shop because of the improvements Say Yes has helped them with. So you see, a little bit goes

a long way to impact more lives than we even knew about!

We have to go to great lengths to get electricity hooked up at the Development Team land in Nkokonjeru. See all the guys in the picture? They actually carried that pole from the truck to the hole it was going into – Virgil says that distance is about a quarter of mile! If you remember the massive effort it took to get the water tank in position on top of the water stand, then you’ll have a good idea as to how hard they all worked to get this heavy, heavy pole in place! Lots of grunting, stopping to rest and then going again....ugh! This was done the third week of November and the meter box finally got installed the middle of the last week in November. Now the water is being delivered from the well to the water tank just in time for the hot weather – Thank You, Lord!



We could share many sorrowful stories and sad pictures, and we’ve done that in the past. But this is a time for thanksgiving and we want to shout it out from the rooftops! THANK YOU to all who have helped make these dreams become a reality! We are touching so many lives, the majority of whom we will never meet. What we are doing to get the Development Team set up to help others will live for eternity. The Team is learning to conduct themselves and their business within the freedom of Kingdom Culture – doing things God’s way. That is the only way to sustainably demonstrate the heart of the Father and help others to do the same.

James 1:27 *“True spirituality that is pure in the eyes of our Father God is to make a difference in the lives of the orphans, and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to be corrupted by the world’s values.”* (The Passion Translation)

Thank you for being the “heart that matches the cry” – if you’ve prayed for us; if you’ve supported Say Yes financially; if you’ve shared our story with others, then you have been the heart God touched to share His love. We are forever grateful.

Hoping your Thanksgiving Day was delightful and that your Christmas will be filled with the love of Christ!

*Virgil & Joy*

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