



Late February 2020

First of all we want to say thank you so much to those of you who prayed for us during the last five months – so important and so appreciated! And we thank all of you who helped us financially with the needs we shared. We are humbled with the responses we received to our emails and the love expressed to so many Ugandans through your hands. Thank you so much!

Hopefully you were able to read our updates while we were in Uganda. Of course, there’s always stories that didn’t get a mention. So what should we tell you about first? How about some baby stories? When we first arrived in Uganda we found Paul & Leticia’s 14-month old baby, Triny, not doing well. She wasn’t eating, had lost half her baby weight, and didn’t have enough strength to stand on her own.



Triny before prayer on the left

Triny 3 months after prayer on the right

Look at the difference in her arms - beautiful baby fat!!

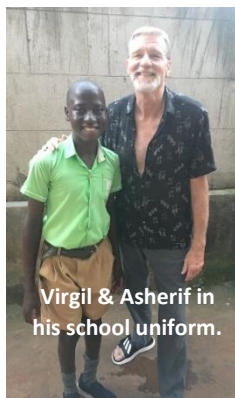


Virgil prayed for her - that very night she began to eat again and within three weeks she was walking on her own! We did share this in one of the updates but what you may not know is that by Christmastime she had stopped nursing and was the picture of fat baby health!

Then as we prepared to leave Uganda in February we prayed for Denis & Sarah Colins baby, Great Miles. He had pretty much stopped eating and was sickly with flu like symptoms. We prayed for him and that very night he began to eat. He stopped demanding to nurse, which was pretty much just a comfort thing for him, and has become much more active. They’re going to need an extra income to keep him fed! Ha!

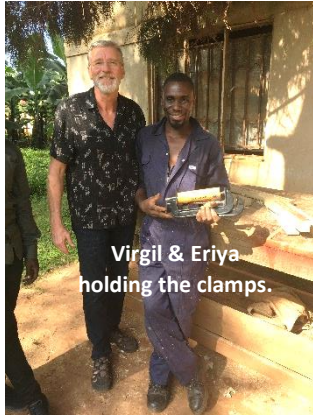
Great Miles

A growing and very healthy baby boy soon to be one year. Prayer works!



And then there’s Asherif – a 12 year-old boy living with his aunt who owns the compound where we rented a bungalow. Asherif’s parents are divorced and his mum could not manage to educate him – his father’s current wife didn’t want to take him in. So Asherif works for his aunt and attends a low-level government run school, a very normal situation for many children in Uganda. We enjoyed chatting with Asherif and took him with us to various places from time to time. We often talked to him about how much Jesus loves him. He has a Muslim name but he is

born again. One day he had pain in his leg so we asked if he wanted prayer and he leg was healed! After that he readily came to us for prayer for anything else he needed. Over the five months he received healing for headaches, pain in his upper abdomen and for school exams. We also paid to have three rabbit cages made for the rabbits we bought for him – you should have seen his smile! He knows he is loved – Jesus is making a difference in his life.



Eriya is a Muslim carpenter we met and paid to make a table for Leticia as a birthday present. This man has a heart of gold. He is humble, generous and kind. He even gifted us with a stool when we picked up the table. He is the one who made the rabbit cages for Asherif – he worked much longer and harder than his labor fee of 50,000 shillings (about \$14)! He even made a sturdy four-step ladder for Asherif to reach up to the third rabbit cage – no one asked him to do that. We were blessed to purchase a hand sander for Eriya and a set of C clamps – he was a happy carpenter for sure! We prayed the blessing of God over his life. We know he will commit his life to Christ in the days to come. Paul will continue to visit with him as a point of contact on our behalf – he will surely introduce him to the salvation of Jesus!



The transition at the Development Team land with the banana and vanilla crops has been truly amazing. When we arrived in September 2019 the plants were still so small. The bananas are now a virtual forest of trees and the vanilla is growing strong. We believe the land will produce an amazing harvest in the months and years ahead. The proceeds will help other poor and needy families start businesses with counsel from the Team. We have visions of many Ugandans coming into sustainability because of what God has started on this land. There is now a two-room living

space for two caretakers, a latrine, and most recently an outdoor kitchen structure. And the vision continues to grow because God has more He wants to see accomplished through Say Yes International! This property is becoming more valuable all the time!



This update would not be complete without mentioning Annet. The picture on the left shows her with two of her daughters, Jenifer & Leticia – Annet is in the back. She had never been in a “real” restaurant, as we know it. She even got to have her first ever milkshake! We will always delight in sharing how God’s power and love changed the circumstances of this family within 24 hours! God’s timing and perfect set up was outstanding. We’ve shared her story and amazing transformation in previous newsletters. And you’re reading

about her story because Say Yes partners responded with “...hearts to match the cry.” But what remains so amazing is what we thought would be so hard to accomplish with so many uncertainties was accomplished literally overnight. No one but God could do that. God evaporated all the hindrances; He made a way where there seemed to be no way. His perfect plan even included housing where born again believers live and play gospel music and sermons all day long! Annet and her girls are in a safe, secure place with Godly influence all around them.....Thank You, God!

On another note, we ask you to keep Sam Jackson in prayer as he is still dealing with the fallout from the accident with the truck and motorcycle. He has been very discouraged and basically wondering what he is doing wrong that so much has come against him. We’ve all been there at one time or another. We continue to encourage him in the ways of the Lord – we are confident the goodness of God will be manifest in his life and he will experience a turnaround in the circumstances he is facing.

We have experienced so many God miracles in 2019 and early into 2020 it would be hard to capture all of it in short monthly newsletters. The future of Say Yes and the Development Team is found in the hope of the One who has given us the very incentive to dream big for the now and for the future. However, it is also a wonderful testimony to rehearse what He has already done for us individually and for Say Yes. Many friends have encouraged us to share our stories in writing. So over the next few months we will work toward that goal – actually documenting in one publication all the wonderful works God accomplished just in the last 14 months.

We are very glad to be home in the great USA! We are honored to have had the opportunity to be in Uganda for five months – it was rewarding in many ways. But the greatest take-away was getting to know the culture a bit better and seeing the very real challenges these beautiful people live with on a daily basis. We saw and experienced many unfair and unjust things – some that made us boiling mad. We could either tolerate the situation or strike back but neither one of those options is effective. The only true response to such challenges is love...just love as Jesus loves. Does that mean we passively accept the corruption, poverty, theft, or beatings & killings as a way of life? No, most certainly not. What it does mean is we get to love the one in front of us, as Heidi Baker teaches. Sow the love of Jesus into that life. Help that one to stand on his/her feet and teach them the way of love. One by one this love will grow to impact a nation for the Kingdom of God. We have to start somewhere and we have a great start in the Development Team. God will use Paul, Sam, KD & Denis to change their corner of Uganda, East Africa for the cause of Christ.

Blessings to you in this day the Lord has made...may you come to know the good plans God has for you!

Virgil & Joy

www.sayyesinternational.org



Here are a few
random pictures
just for fun...



Crazy traffic



Marketplace in
Mukono



Beautiful country side - sugar cane fields in the
foreground and tea fields in the background



Road side food stand – buy a chapat (thick
flatbread) with eggs (with just a little dirt
& other unknown things) for less than 50
cents. It'll hold ya 'til dinnertime!