

Remembering 2019 has brought much rejoicing as it was an amazing and stellar year for Say Yes International! At the same time we are super expectant for what God has in store for 2020! The closer we walk with the Father the bigger our steps become, the brighter the vision gets, and a greater hope is ignited. The Lord reminds us to take our imposed limits off Him – He is more than able to meet every need of the work He has called us to.

If you remember in our last newsletter about Annet, we were hoping to raise enough funds (\$1000) to relocate her out of the Kampala-Kololo slum into a safe and clean environment in Mukono. The response to the request blew us away – we received almost \$2000 – double what we were asking! Your love for this family spoke out loud and clear!!! We were able to do way above and beyond what we hoped. Annet's family now has new beds, bedding, mosquito nets, window curtains, even a new sofa, four plastic chairs, new cooking supplies, charcoal stove & charcoal, soap, food supply, and more. We also have enough to get Annet started selling charcoal again. She is familiar with this business and is looking forward to getting back to work. You might also remember she had pain in her leg and her head. We prayed. Jesus met the need. **SHE IS NOW HEALED OF ALL PAIN!**



Top left picture is the compound where Annet's 2-room apartment is

Top right picture is her first look into her new home & the sofa

To the left shows all of us fitting on the new sofa – happy campers!

Annet's transition out of 2019 into 2020 has been spectacular – she cannot stop smiling! Peace, joy, hope, and love have now taken over her life, when it used to be nothing but hopelessness, pain, sorrow, and despair. In one fell swoop God made her life new again. We are at a loss to put into words how grateful we are to everyone who played a part in this outcome – the financial support, prayers, Paul & Leticia's efforts to get all the supplies

and try to keep it all a surprise, the young men who helped move everything into the new space, and most of all GOD! What we had thought to be nigh to impossible last year, all of a sudden became super easy – and it happened within days and in the Christmas season – how perfect is that?!

And speaking of Christmas – remember the Christmas Dinner Celebration email we sent out about two weeks before Christmas? That, too, was a resounding success. Say Yes partners donated enough funds to purchase food for 26 people, with enough left over to share among each other for the next day. Happy? You bet! These Ugandans are capable of moving mountains of food into their bellies! We laughed a lot and rejoiced together for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! It was truly remarkable. Thank you all so much for sharing your love in such a tangible way. Although the ladies worked long hours (about 8-9 hours on Christmas day) to get everything prepped, cooked, and served, they said they were more than happy to do so. The food was great! And Charles (the brick maker/musician) loves the guitar we gave him – he’s on track to make even more music now! He was super surprised to say the least!



Just a sample of a happy man with a full plate of food! The skewer has pork meat on it.



And Charles is on the right with his new guitar

Our time here in Uganda is coming to an end in less than five weeks. It has been a time of learning, sowing and reaping, and loving on purpose. God has certainly done a divine work in our hearts, as well as in the hearts of the young people on the Development Team. He’s not done yet, of course. We have made headway in many areas. Just being here to walk in the same challenges the people we help walk in has been an amazing experience. Poverty is definitely a mindset, one this culture (and many others) accept as being normal. We don’t agree – that’s not God’s plan. We have visions of doing more, of seeing God’s Kingdom Culture worked out in the lives of the youth here. We know we can help many to establish businesses to support their own families and help others do the same. It’s when we work together that we can see a difference come to pass in lives such as Annet, her daughters, Charles and so many others.

We hope many others will join us, as you have, to continue the forward momentum we are seeing already in these first few days of 2020. We are humbled to get to be the ones to represent your love and God’s love for Uganda. Even in the face of so much tragedy in the world, God’s love shines bright and clear. We have abundant hope for the future – our joyful expectation of good has grown exponentially!

In His grace and love,

Virgil & Joy

www.sayyesinternational.org



A typical mud hut in a remote village