

Virgil shared the statement below with a friend recently:

*“So much rain here. The needs of the people here are so great. Tears fill my eyes every morning of the poverty as government agencies get rich putting burdens on people they could easily help. So much corruption. The development team say that what we are teaching in just a few weeks have learned more than all their years in church. It seems we are doing so little with so few. But the Lord is an expert at doing great things with so little. We spread by hand the rest of the chicken dung yesterday then came home to no (tap) water. It takes a while getting the soap from your under arms while on your knees scooping water (from a bucket) with your hands....”*

That’s a raw peek into our slice of life here in Uganda. It definitely offers a ton of opportunities to declare God to be the Hero of our story! And what a story it is becoming. Sometimes it feels like we take one step forward just to fall back two steps. But what we have come to know is the first step was a giant one and the steps backward just serve to push us ahead in knowing more God steps lie ahead!

Here’s a “for instance”: Remember the story about Charles in the brickyard? We were so happy to bless his family with beds for the kids. We happened to ask Sam why it would be so bad for Charles and Viola to marry in a civil court. Well he mentioned that to Charles, who talked to Viola, and she talked to her family. Viola’s family is deep into witchcraft. They went to the “ancient spirits” and told Viola the spirits said Charles is not the husband for her! (They already have two children who are 6 and 4 years old!) Viola confesses to being born again but is not strong in the faith. She is now fearful to go against her family. Do you see the step forward and the steps backward? But God is not done with these two yet. We hope to visit with them in the near future and help them sort this out for His glory.

The work at the Development Team land is an ongoing story, too. It’s been a bit of a “push-pull” process. The crew building the guard shelter has been very diligent to get the structure done – it’s almost ready for



occupancy. Hallelujah! But there is an abundance of weeds that need to be pulled. Someone was hired to clear them out but has not done what he said he would do. So back to the drawing board – enter another crew from another village to get the job done in 2-3 days.

We now have a gentleman from yet another village who will stay in the guard

shelter to take care of the bananas and vanilla plants full-time. This is a great step forward; one we have been anticipating for a long time. He is willing to do this work for a room to live in, living supplies and about \$42/month! We are definitely making positive steps forward!



Plaster first & then paint



Chicks 1 wk old

The two chicken projects we started recently are doing well. These are commercial chickens or broilers. The chicks are delivered in boxes with holes for air and then transferred to a brooding area with charcoal heat and starter feeds, water and vaccinations. After 10 days to 2 weeks they are moved into a larger area and given special feed to help them grow faster. After two weeks of

this they are nice and plump and sold to a buyer. The chicks are purchased for about 72 cents and sold for about \$2.37 each after 4-5 weeks. The approximate net income after expenses is \$230. This process is then repeated about every three



Chicks 3 wks old

weeks. We thank each of you who gave to get these projects going – it provides income for the families while they wait for crops to produce.

And things have changed considerably for Sam Jackson (Sembuya Samuel Jacklewison – formal Ugandan name)! From losing everything (as explained in the last newsletter) to gaining even more has put a non-stop smile on his face and a constant song of praise on his lips. Because now he is the proud owner of a Fuso Truck thanks to generous donors with humongous hearts of love! This truck will be a source of weekly income for Sam's family and the driver he hires. And the Development Team will use it to transport crops as needed. We wish we had better words to convey how big this is for Sam – it is the beginning of the **Sembuya Business Enterprises**, which holds great promise to grow exponentially and bless many, many people!



As for the Kingdom Culture teaching Virgil is doing for the Development Team – it's going great! The Team is very grateful for this opportunity to learn with time for questions and answers. In fact they want to meet twice a week now to be sure they get all Virgil has to give them. The topics have included:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Guard Your Heart with All Diligence                                    | Conviction & Compromise               |
| Be Together/Transparency   | The Wisdom of God in Mystery          |
| Kingdom of Honor and Confrontation                                     | The Types of Heart (Ground) in Mark 4 |
| A New Language – A New Way of Thinking, Speaking, Talking, & Believing |                                       |

And Virgil has much more to teach! We will also cover the practical aspects of doing business as the Development Team. So the Team decided to meet twice a week to capture all they can before we leave.

On occasion friends of Say Yes ask what some of the pressing needs are for those we are serving here in Uganda. If we were to note them all (and we have in years past) it would be rather overwhelming. So we thought we'd share the needs we feel are at the top of the list:

- ♥ The well on Paul's farm needs to be deeper as it won't produce enough water to sustain the farm during the dry season: **\$1300**
- ♥ The final piece of land Say Yes helped to purchase this year was for Denis Colins has a balance that needs to be satisfied next month: **\$750**
- ♥ Paul & Leticia have been living in one room of the house Say Yes helped them purchase last year because the walls in the rest of the house are not plastered and the floor is not finished. Their daughter, Triny, has been sick with a bacterial infection recently and we can't help but feel it is due in part from the various contaminants brought into the house after working in the chicken coop and other outside chores. The floor is very hard to clean as it's just rough-hewn stones and cement. But plastering the walls must come before the floor. **Plastering: \$900 Finish floors: \$1275**
- ♥ Denis Colins' land does not have a latrine. Someone is living in a makeshift shelter to watch the chickens and is using the neighbor's facilities. When the local authorities see there is no latrine on the land when someone is living there they will issue fines. Due to the high water table it is necessary to build a bio-digester toilet system: **\$1650** (not including building to be built over the system)

Thank you for joining us in prayer as we present these needs to our Father. We know provision in there!

And thank you for reading these newsletters and keeping the amazing people you read about in your heart. God has a big plan for each of them and He loves that you are part of their story!

May your steps take you higher as you continue in the way of our Lord.

*Virgil & Joy*

[www.sayyesinternational.org](http://www.sayyesinternational.org)



With Pastor Joseph Maaso