



October 2019

Hello Say Yes Friend! It's been just over a month since we landed for our first extended stay in Uganda. And we can honestly say we lack for no good thing. We have a comfortable bed, running water, flushing toilet, gas stove, electricity, internet, AND a washing machine! That's all right here in the Airbnb bungalow we rented for the five months. Of course, once we step outside this "zone," if you will, things are a bit different. Well....maybe a lot different. It's the rainy season here so the dirt side roads are super muddy and slippery, the traffic is insane, and the stores-people-bikes-motorcycles-trucks-birds-sounds-colors all become a blur unless you know what you're looking for! And that's where our Ugandan son comes in. Paul has been our faithful van driver at all times. He manages all the blur with great calmness and confidence. We knew God provided for every little thing and He is proving Himself every step of the way to be our Good and Faithful Father!

For all of you who have prayed, donated, or extended a word of encouragement we say thank you! We thought perhaps you'd like to know what all of us together have accomplished during our short time in Uganda ....we think you'll be blown away. So far we've been able to provide:

- Transport for a man to tend to a sudden family funeral
- Gas cylinder for a gas cooker for a family of four
- Electrical wiring installed in an entire house
- Tuition and school supplies
- Transportation for many between Entebbe, Kampala, Mukono and Nkokonjeru
- Generator rental, plumber and labor for the water tank at the Development Team land
- Balance of loan paid off for a young man who used it to build a house for his mom
- Solar panel for 3 bulbs in a widow's home
- Started two chicken projects
- Room rented for 3 months with many "new home" supplies for a young man
- Constructed guard shelter at the Development Team land for a caretaker & eventually a guard
- Finalized two land titles for properties purchased for the Development Team & Sam Jackson
- Repaired a bicycle – the only transportation for a young man deep in the village
- Presented gifts to a woman who has been so kind to the DTeam watching over their supplies
- 3-tier bunkbed with mattresses and linens to a family with three children without beds
- Manure and mulch for banana and vanilla crops
- Paid for stump removal blocking access to the dirt road into Development Team land
- Made partial payment on a land purchase for one of the Team members
- And, of course, meals for the Development Team meetings!

This may not look like your typical "missionary" endeavor and that's because it's not! We are normal people reaching out to help other people in the ordinary ways of life. After all, what does God's love really look like? We think it looks like helping the one in front of you when you see them struggling. It's a real demonstration of God's hand extended. Eventually we will have the opportunity to share His love and invite many people who don't know Him to enjoy life with Jesus.

DTeam meal & meeting – it's called communing together!



An update for you regarding Sam Jackson: You recently received an email from us telling you about what happened to Sam. We give a heartfelt THANKS to all who prayed for him – God hears and answers prayer! Sam was able to talk about it a bit more the last time we were with him. He has absolutely no recollection of being assaulted. His only memory is he was in the truck with these guys who stole from him at 4:00 a.m. and then he was on the ground alongside the road hearing people talking to him. By that time it was daylight. The people stopped a passing ambulance (weird to have an ambulance driving by at that exact time, eh?) and told them to take Sam to the hospital. Sam tried to resist telling them he was fine but they

took him anyway. The ambulance crew thought they may have a mad man on their hands because he was being quite adamant that he was fine and tried to tell them some guys stole his maize and all his money. When they reached the hospital the attendants were finally believing him and instead took him to the police to make a report. However, after listening to Sam's story and taking him to the truck park there was no way to identify the truck or the men, as they probably were not from that town. Without money from Sam the police would not look any further.

He had just enough transport (the 20,000 shillings the thieves left in his pocket) to get to Kampala, which took 7 hours! He was sitting in the bus with tears streaming down his face, he was so devastated. His phone was not working so he couldn't reach home or friends. A lady in the seat next to him asked if he was okay – he said he was fine. But after some time of traveling he came clean and told her he was actually not fine at all and told her his story. She asked if he had enough funds to get home – he said he only had enough to get to Kampala. This very kind lady gave him the remaining funds he needed to get to Mukono (5,000 shillings or \$1.40 USD).



Sam calculates he lost about \$5000 USD! That accounts for an entire truck of maize he was taking to the company for payment. With that money he planned to pay growers, brick makers in his brickyard, and pay off two loans. Had the theft not happened he would have been left with enough money to go back and purchase more maize for better profit. To say this is devastating is an understatement.

However, remember we told you we are never without hope? After praying for Sam his headache is gone; his heart ache is healed; and he has hope again for the future – his beautiful smile is back. You might think that's a bit too fast to believe. But God is more than able. And He already had something else in mind for Sam all the while. Sam readily admits he should not have been traveling so far from home on his own, especially in areas he wasn't familiar with. Hard lesson learned. He and Paul are on to a new venture of wood cutting that promises to produce sustaining income. They are taking the proper steps to be sure all the "i"s are dotted and the "t"s crossed as best as they are able to discern. We believe Holy Spirit is taking them along this path and it's blessed of the Lord. Sam will use this income to satisfy what he still owes.



Here's some more good news – remember baby Triny who started eating solid food at 14 months of age after prayer? Well she wasn't strong enough to walk on her own either. She wasn't social at all and was sickly. But now? Just 3 weeks after prayer and eating she is WALKING ON HER OWN and playing with other children! Another really cool demonstration of God's miracle working love and power .....whooppee! Just think of all the trouble she can get into now with her new found independence! Ha! Watch out Paul & Leticia – here comes Triny! You go, girl!!!

We are experiencing the goodness of God within the Development Team and in our own lives. Whenever we "wonder" if/when/how the provision will come in we are reminded before we even say anything out loud that God promised to make every provision available to us – He has promised to guide our every step for His glory. We have been healed physically. We are hearing the heart of the Father for the Development Team. We are confident we are in Uganda for His purposes in the right season and the vision continues to grow within us.

We thank you again for your prayers and support. We are laying good foundation for future endeavors for the Kingdom of God!

*Virgil & Joy*

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



*Yep – Virg took this selfie...we be happy!*