



January 2021 Newsletter

It's a new year and we are keeping our ears tuned to what God is saying – what does He wants to do through Say Yes this year? Since we know God to be “over-the-top **good**”, it stands to reason 2021 is going to be an especially wonderful kind of year. In the December newsletter we reviewed the many ways Say Yes brought hope and relief to so many in Uganda. It was miraculous and encouraging and so much fun to see God at work in the midst of uncommon challenges we all faced last year.

Bricks, Bricks...and more Bricks

We are currently building two rooms on the property in Nkokonjeru where the vanilla and banana crops are located. You may remember Say Yes purchased two acres – one for the Development Team and one for Sam Jackson. The acres are contiguous and the well that was dug in 2019 supports both acres. The rooms being built are on Sam's property but will serve the Team as a whole when they are working in the field, giving them a place to stay overnight. Up to this point they had no place to sleep so they would have to return home after only a few

Bricks burned for the 2 rooms



The foundation for the rooms



hours working in the crops. The young men who tend to the crops and live in the two rooms Say Yes built in 2019 are super happy to know the Team will be present more often. Since Sam and Racheal plan to live on their own property they will simply add on to the rooms for their own home. It's a win-win situation! We are looking forward to telling you when the vanilla flowers and about the pollinating process that should start happening this coming summer.

Another building project is the one for Denis & Sarah Colins. They recently completed the construction of two fish ponds and now have 11,000 tilapia fingerlings – actually they are bigger than fingerlings by this time! They also have a growing rabbit population that requires much attention. Up 'til this point they are only able to walk to the property from where they are renting; the whole family spends the day tending to the needs of the crops, fish and rabbits. Their presence also provides needed security. In December Denis started making bricks for a three-room house. Say Yes sent enough money for him to make all the bricks he needed and get the necessary firewood to burn them. This will be his house! Of course, he has a long way to go – the entire cost of the construction going forward is about \$7500, which includes a durable, long-lasting dog house for the trained security dog Say Yes purchased for him. The dog will protect from thieves and monitor lizards (yuk). We are believing God for funds to help Denis & Sarah finish their house before the summer as they must move out of the rental when the owner returns. The infrastructure already on the property includes a bio-digester toilet, a sleeping room for the onsite security person staying at the property, and electricity. The land has streams of water so they'll be able to easily collect water for their personal needs. The only thing lacking is a house...and God has a plan for that, too!



Bricks drying for the Colins house

Paul and Leticia are overseeing their own building project. Say Yes actually made this possible when we purchased an unfinished house for them shortly after they got married in 2018. That house needed so much work! A new roof, plastering, a new latrine, interior doors, a finished floor and much more. Say Yes helped them complete that house and it turned out beautifully! So the next logical step for Paul & Leticia was to sell the house in order to build one in a better location.

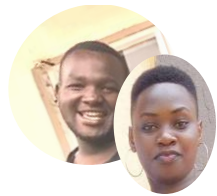
Progress on Paul's house



And that is the project they are currently working toward. Paul and Leticia have been very good stewards of all the assistance they've received from the donors of Say Yes over the years. We are proud of them as they have matured beautifully together in so many ways. Paul continues to represent Say Yes in Uganda – he is our eyes and ears on the ground.

That covers the current activities that just happen to involve three of the four Development Team members. There is one more report and that's about KD Buyinza's mechanic business. It is slowly recuperating from the effects of the virus pandemic. He struggles not having a compressor to grow his business further but he is making do with what he has. He has found the woman of his dreams – Karen; she keeps him in smiles always! KD has planted bananas and other crops on the acre of land Say Yes purchased for him in Nkokonjeru. We know the Lord has an awesome future for KD as he continues to learn God's way of being and doing.

KD & Karen



Say Yes continues to support many others such as Robert, Annet, many widows, students, and even Pastor Joseph's ongoing, long-term house construction.

Our God-dream is highlighted with the Job Training Center – a unique kind of center conjoining a number of job skill training rooms with a central community room for ministry opportunities. The vision continues to be defined and awaits location and funding. But we know it's a "coming together" of all that Say Yes International is about so we are in peace as we wait for God's timing – the right time, right place, right people.....the right everything.

We ask you to pray for each of the projects you just read about. We also ask you to pray for the health of the Development Team families – there have been many cases of malaria and other sicknesses in the past 12 months. We are praying God to put a barrier of protection around each of them so they can continue the work they have at hand.

We can't say it enough – thank you for supporting what Say Yes is doing in Uganda. It's such a blessing to represent the Kingdom of Heaven among the beautiful people of Uganda.

Giving God all the glory,

Virgil & Joy

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