

Here's the latest info we have about the Covid19 situation in Uganda: President Museveni addressed the nation on May 4, 2020 – he extended the lockdown for an additional 14 days. While he did lift some restrictions, it's not enough to really make a difference. Some businesses are allowed to be open such as garages, which got our hopes up for KD (the mechanic on the DTeam). However, when we chatted with KD he said garages can be open but not spare car part shops, such as his. Besides that, since cars are not allowed on the roads they can't get to a garage anyway. So exactly what was the point...?!? The curfew is still in place, which causes many issues if/when people need to go for medical treatment throughout the day, including the curfew hours. The government has hired Local Defense Unit soldiers who are told to enforce the curfew. Unfortunately, the soldiers do not discriminate as to why people are out during curfew hours. Just a few days ago a soldier shot and killed a bodaboda driver and his passenger, a pregnant woman, returning home from the hospital. We asked if people are protesting such actions but were told Ugandans are not allowed to protest or demonstrate unless they are willing to give up their lives.

However, in the midst of all that....ministry opportunities abound! Paul & Leticia continue to reach out to people in their neighborhood. They have met many people in need, especially the older generation, as we've noted before. Recently they met two older women caring for their grandchildren. One of the women has been blind since she was two years old. She told Paul she knew God would be her Father from that time on and would "babysit" her throughout her life. She eventually got married and moved far away from where she was born. She was active in digging in the garden, cooking, washing clothes, and caring for her children – she did not let her disability determine her ability. After her husband died she said God sent her to a village she didn't know. When she reached the village she would sleep outside under a tree. Eventually people came to her rescue; they gave her a small piece of land and built her a small house where she still lives. She says she lives to testify of God's goodness as He surely cares for her. When Paul & Leticia met her she was peeling matooke (steamed green bananas) – she had four banana trees in her backyard and since she remained with nothing in her house to feed the grandchildren she was forced to cut down a young banana tree in order to have food for herself and the kids. And then Paul & Leticia show up with food and supplies to share! She was so excited and testified again how well God cares for her!



The other lady Paul & Leticia met is a Muslim whose husband died ten years ago. From that time to now life has been so hard for her as a single mother; she is living a very desperate and peasant kind of life. When the virus restrictions were put in place she only had young crops not ready to harvest. Her grown children have not reached out to help her, not even her fellow Muslim friends. She and the children with her have only been eating porridge every day prepared out of her own cassava flour she had stocked some time back. She was not home when Paul & Leticia delivered food and supplies such as soap, salt, sugar, beans, posho, rice, etc. But when she saw the goods she immediately walked to Paul & Leticia's house to express her thanks and gratitude. She told them her

life issues and extended her sincere appreciation once again. Paul & Leticia ministered the gospel of Jesus Christ to her. She listened and said she would think about the things they shared. Paul & Leticia promised to check with her regularly....the seeds of love have been sown.

During their neighborhood walk, Paul & Leticia met another Muslim family. The husband/father was quite sick with pressure and headache. They were allowed to pray for him and promised to check back with them to see how he is doing.

A gentleman from Paul & Leticia's church was telling Paul the struggles he has in providing for his family. Paul gave him matooke, sugar, flour, and beans out his own provision. Say Yes was able to restore what Paul used to help others – keeping him supplied to help others is another demonstration of reaching out in love during such times.

Do you have time for one more story? Paul told us he was recently awoken around 3:00 a.m. one morning by a neighbor crying out loudly that his young son was dying. Paul went to the door to get the rest of the story. When he went to this man's home (with other neighbors) they found the boy was barely breathing – he was struggling to live. The neighbors found someone with a motorcycle and encouraged the man to take the boy to the hospital. Even though this was during curfew hours they were fortunate to reach the hospital without incident. The boy was diagnosed with malaria and put on oxygen. They were concerned it has moved into the brain, which is life threatening. Children in Uganda often die from malaria. The neighbors know Paul and his family are born again believers and knew he would help them and pray for the boy. He has fully recovered and is now home running and playing with other kids – hallelujah! And, yes, Paul helped with the medical expenses, as well....

Other facets of life continue to be challenging (as always) – severe winds and rain took out the roof of the house Daniel lives in on Paul's farm along with the electricity. Say Yes sent funds for the necessary repairs. Also, because the government has allowed construction to continue, Sam Jackson has continued to make bricks but he can't pay the guys for their labor until the bricks are burned and sold. He was in need of firewood to burn the bricks so Say Yes helped him; which means more families will be able to purchase food.

As we continue to reach out to help others such as Pastor Joseph's family, his mother and others we are told about who are going without food we want to say thank you to all those who help us! It's been amazing to witness the outpouring of love – what a wonderful testimony of the goodness of God! Be encouraged as you read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 in The Passion Translation: **10** *This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, which becomes bread for our meals, is even more extravagant toward you. First he supplies every need, plus more. Then he multiplies the seed as you sow it, so that the harvest of your generosity will grow.* **11** *You will be abundantly enriched in every way as you give generously on every occasion, for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God.*

With thankful hearts,

Virgil & Joy

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