

The coronavirus continues to make life difficult in Uganda according to the young men we are talking to. Here's what they have shared with us:

President Museveni is allowing people to move around but only if they wear a mask. The government was to distribute masks to every citizen (all 42 million of them) by April 26 – to date this still has not happened. Private transport is allowed to only carry three people. Public transportation (busses & taxis) may resume June 4th but only after they “refresh” their vehicle registrations, which will take long and seems to be a money grab on the government's part. However, the bodabodas (motorcycles) are not allowed to carry passengers yet (this is a first means of transport for many). Small shops and restaurants can be open but not the malls or arcades. Schools, churches, bars and clubs are to remain closed. Curfew remains at 7:00 p.m. across the country. All Uganda districts bordering other countries (Kenya, South Sudan, Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania) remain closed to all traffic.

Crime continues. Denis Colins' property was targeted by thieves once again. But, praise God, his security man (Wakabi) was alert. Around 3:00 a.m. he fought and resisted the thieves who had cut the fence to enter the farm. They ran away from Wakabi (and his arrows). Instead they robbed an old woman of her three goats (one goat was pregnant). They slaughtered them on the spot leaving their intestines and heads, taking just the meat as they fled the scene. The old woman heard the commotion and went to see what was wrong. The thieves threatened to kill her if she said anything. She was extremely frightened! This is one of the ladies we have helped with food for her and her grandchildren. She was in tears as she shared the experience with Denis. We have sent money to purchase more food for her and another neighbor because sharing the love of God in tangible ways lends itself to recognizing the value of life. They were very, very thankful!



All of the above circumstances cause all sorts of uncertainties and fear. But we must stand together as life goes on and dreams refuse to die. We mentioned in our earlier email we would share some of the more immediate needs to keep the dream(s) moving forward. But prior to posting that list here is what we've been able to do, besides providing funds for food:

- Denis Colins: 1) security trees to be planted inside the perimeter of his fence line – this will deter thieves from cutting through the fence as they'll have to endure the pain of the thorns; 2) manure for banana trees; 3) rabbit cages (because they do multiply!) and rabbit food for one month.
- Paul Mukisa: 1) fencing material & labor to protect the well and livestock on his property from encroachers; 2) 400 coffee tree starts to plant between his banana trees – coffee trees can last for generations and are a good supplemental income for a small initial investment.. Harvest is once in a year but lasts 3-4 months.
- Robert: 1) medicine for ulcers; 2) electricity & water
- KD Buyinza (mechanic): 1) his part of three months past due rent for business location because of the virus; 2) repair to compressor at garage.
- Annet & girls (this is the family we moved out of the slums): 1) rent and food for one month; 2) Senior 6 exam registration fee for Jenifer so she will be ready when school resumes; 3) birthday cake & soda for Bonitah and village friends.... a fun diversion during the lockdown. She was surprised and had so much fun!; 4) medicine and food for Annet's son, Peter, who lives in a distant village.
- Development Team land: 1) shade trees to cover vanilla plants; 2) pesticide spray for vanilla; 5) door for outside kitchen.



That's just a quick look at what we have been doing to provide help with the everyday needs of people we know about. And so much more is done each month.

Now as you read the list of opportunities to help below we ask you to pray with us for the greater provision – over and beyond the ongoing need for food and/or medicine.

- Denis Colins has presented a proposal to start a food kiosk selling rabbit meat and fish in the trading center. Denis & his wife, Sarah, have had a food stand before; for reasons beyond their control they were not able to keep it going. But they love this business and now with ready access to meat supplies, they would like to try again. Denis is working on building a fish pond on his property – he has free flowing water already on the land (\$1200). When the pond is ready for fingerlings it will take about nine months for them to mature. When the Kenyan and Congo borders open again Denis will resume his business to buy and sell dried fish. It will take time to put all this together; and it takes funds he does not currently have. We've heard it said from other Ugandans that it seems each time they endeavor to do a business they slam into one barricade after another, always failing to succeed. However, we don't hear that from Denis & Sarah – they are tenacious in the face of the many defeats they've experienced. We love this and feel it is a testimony that will encourage others to keep on keeping on....with a little help from friends. Denis will eventually need electricity to his land to support the projects he has going on including a pump for the fish pond (\$165).
- You may remember the story about Sam Jackson's truck, the accident it was in and the subsequent aftermath that created with the family of the deceased and injured. Sam had to get the truck working again in order to honor his financial commitment to these families. Then the coronavirus hit..BAM! His truck has been stuck in Arua (northwest Uganda) and hasn't moved in three months, thanks to the lockdown. We understand it is in a secured area in a marketplace, which means he will have to pay to retrieve it. He hasn't seen it all this time so he doesn't know how road worthy it is – apparently when a big truck doesn't move for long periods of time the tires and other things can go bad. It is a real concern for him as he has loan payments to make, too. This is a big issue.
- The Development Team land is doing well but needs border trees for greater security (~\$100). And the Team will need to hire professional security guards to watch over the vanilla in about 5-6 months. This is an extremely valuable crop. Once it flowers it becomes a prime target for thieves. There are two contiguous acres of vanilla and banana trees (one acre for the Team and one for Sam). It is super important to protect this investment. It is the outcome of our dream for Ugandans to fund business opportunities for other Ugandans in need of a steady income for their families. Perhaps even a training center for electrical, brick making, carpentry, livestock, farming, sewing, child care, etc. etc. This is at the very center of what Say Yes is about – to enable the poor and needy who have no one else to help them realize a better life for their family. And, at the same time, to share the love Jesus to them.
- Our monthly commitment to support those without a steady income continues to grow: 1) rent and food for three families (\$250); 2) farm labor for four young men (\$155). Our goal is to get these people to the place where they can assume their own expenses – it's just not possible for them right now.
- And the situation in Uganda has not lessened any with respect to food – until people get back on their feet they still need assistance to buy the daily essentials of food and water.

None...as in NONE ... of this would be possible without the faithful support of so many of you who help us either monthly or as you feel prompted. It remains an ongoing source of amazement to see what God does through each of us and through Say Yes International. And it's our joy to witness the impact this support has on so many people who you will never know this side of life. Please know their joy is abundant manifested in many smiles, lots of laughter, dancing and shouts of thankfulness.

Thank you – may you know the blessing of the Lord always!

Virgil & Joy

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