

We weren't going to say much about the corona virus issue in Uganda, but it's hard not to at least share about the ongoing impact it is having. Opportunities have either been lost or severely delayed – so many lives have been put on hold.... For example:

- Denis & Sarah Colins had just been able to get a second delivery of three fish boxes to the Congo border when the President closed the country. That meant one full box of dried fish was spoiled (that's a LOT of fish!). Thankfully the other two boxes were sold before the order was enforced. Since then there has been no more business. Denis is just now able to get to Busia in eastern Uganda to start the process all over again, only this time with more restrictions.



- Sam Jackson's truck was on its way to make a delivery in Aura in western Uganda when the country was put in lock down. His truck has remained there since early March. The driver & co-driver just left the truck where it was in the marketplace and left. Eventually the police had it towed to a safe compound but not before thieves took the gear box and some other items from the cab of the truck. And now Sam has to pay to get it out of the compound, make the necessary repairs, and insure the tires are road worthy before he can get it back to Mukono.



- The banana harvest at both the Development Team land and Paul's farm is doing very well....except the market within the borders of Uganda is flooded with bananas! The price per banana bunch is super low, making it costly to transport to market. This means it's best for the guys in Nkokojeru and Bunankanda to sell in the local market, which is helpful for those people. They had anticipated a good good income from this crop but that's not the case right now.



- Another big hit the virus is having is on the schools. Both Jenifer and Bonitah (Annet's daughters) are in candidate classes – Senior 6 for Jenifer and Primary 7 for Bonitah. This means they were to take national exams to move on to the next level. This is a big deal for the kids in Uganda. However, it's all been put on hold – no one seems to know if/when the schools will reopen. As for Robert – he was poised to join Kyambogo University in Mukono to begin his final training for electrical work. But again, that has been put on hold with no word as to when the university will reopen. Say Yes is also helping a nursing student (Victor) who was prepared to attend his final semester before graduating but he is now waiting at home to hear when he can get back into school. These are huge delays for these students and many, many more.
- Of course, there are many people who are past due on their rent (either for house or business) and others have been delayed in getting a business started. While the government has told all landlords not to press for rent payment until September, that just means the renter will have several months of rent to pay at that time – but they haven't been working so how's that going to happen? And, besides that, the landlords still demand rent...they won't wait until September. We just heard the other day of a mother who is being evicted from where she had been staying for quite some time. Now she must find another place to rent, come up with three months' rent in advance, all while travel is still limited. Her family is helping her search but that doesn't make it less difficult.

This is all very challenging; if it weren't for the hope we have in God we would easily flounder at the "impossibility" of it all. BUT GOD! Because of our Say Yes Friends we have been able to help many families with food, medical needs, transportation (when available), and even to pay wages for work done at the Development Team Land, at Paul's farm, at Colins' land (with rabbits & crops) and for important plumbing work. Many families have been impacted by your generosity! AND - - this is HUGE - - six people have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through it all! Say Yes bought each one a bible and Paul & Leticia are discipling them. Three of these people were Muslims and know they will be rejected by their families when they find out they have converted to faith in Jesus. But they are happy, they feel loved, and want to grow in their faith!

So as we continue to help as we are able, to see lives changed and to see the love of Jesus demonstrated by tangible actions [we continue to dream.](#)

To that end, we invite you to join us in our dream as we walk and talk with God about the work Say Yes is doing in Uganda ....

Imagine

- Imagine: there are two acres of land strategically located near a trading center in Uganda, and
- Imagine: a well, electricity and septic tank for flush toilets on this land, and
- Imagine: a security fence/wall around the perimeter of the property, and
- Imagine: a group of vocational training spaces built in a horseshoe shape, and
- Imagine: trainers/mentors teaching
  - brick making, sewing, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, cooking/catering, childcare, adult education, agriculture, livestock rearing, hair styling, mechanics, welding, landscaping, maize milling, business & marketing essentials, etc., and then
- Imagine: poor parents with little to no education, unable to pay school fees for their children...
  - always looking for where they can earn a little money, not able to have their own business
- Imagine: providing these families an opportunity to learn a vocation
  - so they can get a good paying job to sustain the family needs or maybe start their own business
- Imagine: a community center centrally located on the property;
  - big enough for church services, meetings, celebrations, community events, etc., and
- Imagine: a large house at the entrance for overseer and international visitors ...

Imagine

And now imagine...**this is all operated BY Ugandans FOR Ugandans!**

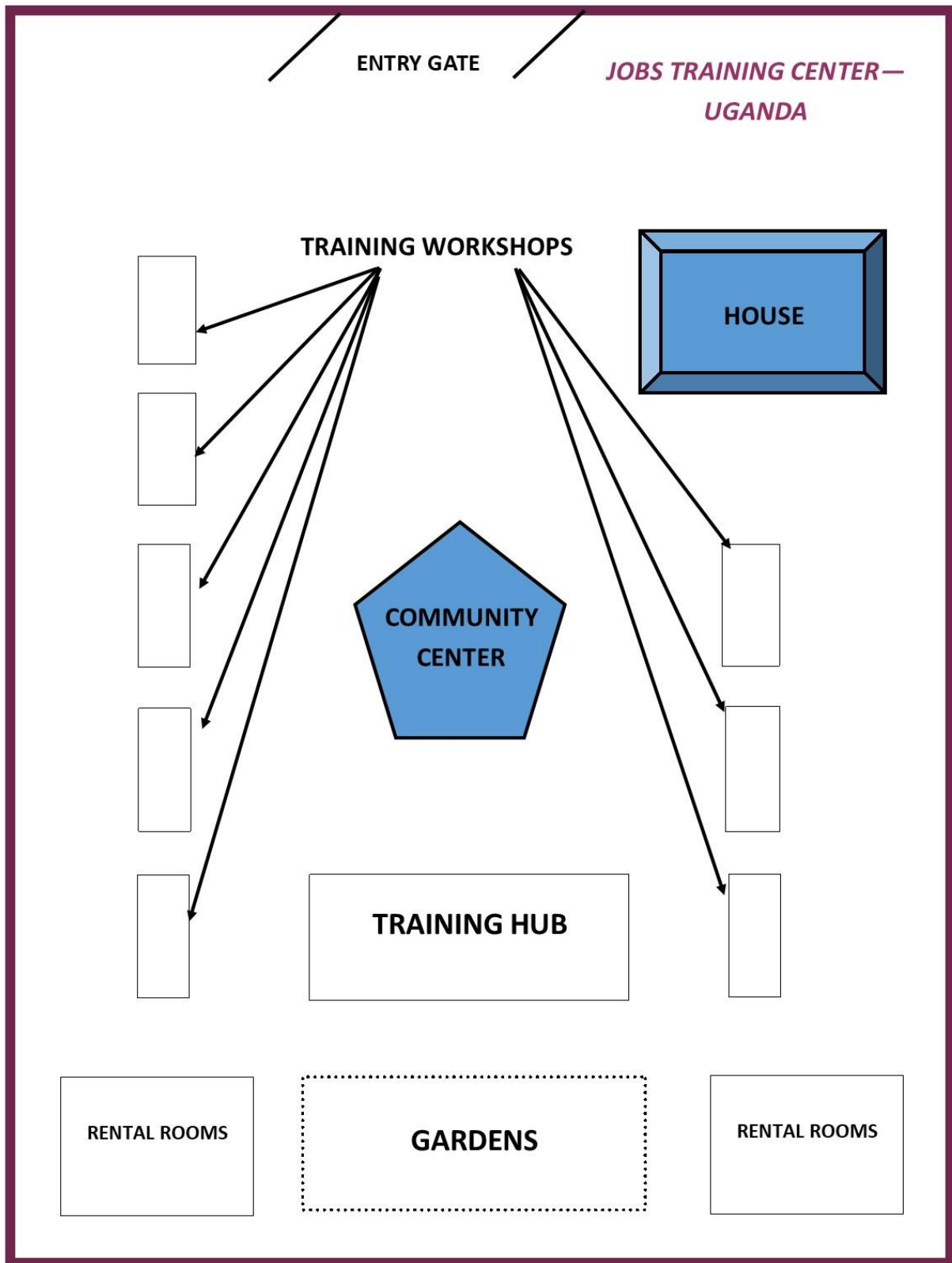
On the next page you'll see a picture of what we've been dreaming about for a few years now – an initial concept. We are taking the limits off God and dreaming BIG with Him. This idea continues to grow and could very well be an extension of the Development Team. The Team already has an acre of land with bananas and vanilla on it. It is the harvest/sale of these crops that will be used by the Team to reach out to help poor Ugandans start a business to support their families. However, this is a multiple year project and much more thought and vision casting with God needs to happen. We'd love to hear your thoughts/comments on this bold dream.

Thank you – we sincerely appreciate that you read our newsletters and for your prayers and support as we keep going forward!

*Virgil & Joy*

[www.sayyesinternational.org](http://www.sayyesinternational.org)  
541-979-539 or 541-979-3535





A well, septic tank, supplementary latrine and electrical pole will also be located on this property.