

August 2020 Newsletter

We hope you enjoy the assortment of good stuff, including some trivia, about what Say Yes is continues to do in Uganda. God is always showing Himself to be faithful, kind and GOOD!

Food Distribution: While the lockdown has been somewhat eased in Uganda life remains hard for so many people, especially the elderly women. For SYI our hearts are about the lone grandmother (jajja) who has been left to care for grandchildren. A jajja often ends up with her grandchildren because the parents have divorced/separated, gotten into an addictive lifestyle, or just do not have the means to provide for the child/children - so they drop them off at jajja's house and disappear. The kids often don't even know what's going on. Because of generous donations we've been able to send money to purchase food for the women we know about, including Sam Jackson's jajja, who has been a pastor, is 83, and cares for toddlers AND her 85 year old sister! Without assistance these jajjas and children would simply live on one meal of porridge a day....every day. Ugh.... The food that has been distributed includes flour, sugar, tea, beans, rice, posho (a vitamin fortified porridge), and as much matooke (banana) as Paul has available from his farm. These jajjas also do whatever they can such as "peasant" type farming to grow crops like maize, potatoes and beans. When she is able, one of the jajjas buys tomatoes at wholesale price, separates them into small polythin (plastic) bags, and then has the grandchildren move around the village selling them to make a small profit. Our liaison, Paul Mukisa Evans, says of the 15 needy and elderly women receiving food assistance he has been privileged to pray with two of them to receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Eight of the ladies already knew the Lord as savior; however, five have not yet accepted this gift. Paul also says if the jajjas do not hear from him in a while they will send their grandchildren to fetch him to their respective homes for him to check on them. This has paved the way for a great relationship with the jajjas and has given him and Leticia a platform to extend God's word and love to them. He expects in time even those who

don't yet know Jesus will give their lives to Him because they have been shown how much God loves them. What a glorious opportunity! Of special note: as life begins to get back to some sort of normalcy for the folks we've been helping Paul asks that we continue to provide food for the blind jajja as she has very few to help her and her grandchildren. Of course, we cannot say "no" – afterall, we are Say Yes! However, it would be very helpful if someone would commit to \$30/month in support of this precious jajja.



Some Trivia: the banana tree grown in central and west Uganda from the Nile River down to Kampala is called "ebitooke;" the banana from this tree is called "amatooke." However, the way we hear it said, it's all referred to as "matooke." A big pot of these bananas are steamed for several hours on an open fire and served with almost any meal, if it's available. It definitely fills the tummy!

<u>Medical things</u>: Denis & Sarah Colins welcomed their newborn daughter, Greta Melody, into their world on August 6th at 11:50 p.m. She weighed in at 4kgs or 8lbs 8 oz. After getting home with the baby it was determined Sarah didn't have enough milk to feed the baby. The doctor said it was because of the poor diet she'd been on for the last several months due to the covid situation. She needed a more balanced diet with fruit, juices and milk. So we sent funds to make that happen – she and the baby are improving.

Then there's Racheal, Sam's wife. We are not sure if she's ever seen a dentist, but given the fact she had to have three teeth removed, eight teeth "derooted" (root canal), and major cleaning work, we're guessing she's never been. The first appointment to remove the teeth went well; she recovered nicely. (Looks like a dentist chair you'd see in the US, eh?) The root canals will be done soon....ouch! As we all know, healthy teeth and gums are so important! We encourage these guys to get regular checkups, especially for the children; but it's hard with the little finances they have.



Education: It appears schools will not be reopening until February 2021 – date always subject to change, of course! In the meantime, some programs have been airing on local TV channels to help kids stay up on some few studies. At least keeping in the habit of some kind of study. Not sure how effective it is, but based on what we hear about Annet's girls they are being diligent to avail themselves of this kind of study. The university students are simply on hold until further notice.



Land Stuff: While we were still in Uganda we purchased water tanks for the Development Team land to be placed among the crops. The guys fill the tanks from the well with a long length of hose and then proceed to hand water each and every plant. In the dry season that means they water twice a day! But they are happy to have the job and do the work – they've been very diligent! We are very thankful for Shadrach and Steven.

Brick Stuff: Sam Jackson has been making bricks himself (20,000 of them!). He need firewood to burn them for 24 hours. Say Yes paid for the firewood. Now when the bricks sell he'll be able to pay his rent, some extensive truck expenses, and set funds aside for the next firewood to burn 10,000 more bricks. This is

what it looks like when bricks are fired up. >

More Trivia: The language for most people in Uganda is Lugandan; here are a few words just for fun:

Oli otya = hello; **Webale** = thank you; **Kale** = okay; **Nedda** = no (if you need to hear how it's said check out YouTube for the Lugandan language....let us know when you've got it down!

And now you know what we sorta know..... ©

Thank you for your prayers and support for the wonderful people of Uganda we have the privilege of standing with – may God always bless the works of your hands and the desires of your heart.

With love,

Virgil & Joy

www.sayyesinternational.org 541-979-539 or 541-979-3535

