



September 2020 Newsletter

It's been a whole year since we arrived in Uganda in 2019. There is no way we could have ever imagined the changes that have taken place from then to now! The work of charitable organizations has been so important over the past months. And what Say Yes has been able to do with the generous donations received by loving donors is nothing short of miraculous and amazing! People who had no one to turn to for assistance have been helped and encouraged. Food, medicine, housing and the gift of salvation have all served to keep hope alive. Thank you to all who gave and continue to give – we will not stop reaching out to the beautiful people in need in Uganda!

Because of the Covid19 crisis Say Yes has had to pause in supporting businesses. We'd like to get that ball rolling again. Below is a quick snapshot of what is needed to push forward various businesses that have been stalled.

Working Capital for Brick Business - \$500:

Sam Jackson has resumed full-time brick making. The working capital will enable him to always have enough to purchase firewood and some labor for each pile of bricks he makes. (Truck Update: the truck Sam purchased was sent to northwest Uganda (Arua) on a routine delivery trip but got stuck there when the government shut down cross country travel due to the Covid19 issue. Sam was not able to travel to insure it was secured so he trusted it to the local police. However, since the last newsletter we have learned that prior to the police being able to move the truck to their compound it was stolen. The guy who stole the truck was driving too fast around a corner and rolled it. As a result he was killed and the truck was completely totaled. This has been a major tragedy for Sam.)

Shelter for Rabbits - \$620:

Denis & Sarah Colins have been raising rabbits since we left Uganda in February this year. It has gone well but of late many bunnies have died for various reasons. Denis recently attended a rabbit raising workshop to learn how to reduce the mortality rate. SYI has sent funds for the necessary medicines to prevent these deaths. But it's super important to protect the rabbits from the weather, which means bricks, sand, cement, labor, etc.



Rabbits are still exposed to the weather from the sides

Land Opportunity - \$2235:

A parcel of land adjacent to the Colins' current property is being sold by the owner at a discounted price due to a family emergency and because it is landlocked. The seller wants \$2235 but has an immediate need for \$1400 and is willing to receive the balance at a later date. The value of the land is the free flowing spring water. This will serve to support fish ponds and crops.

Finish Remodel Project - \$810 (floor tile); \$250 (interior paint)

In 2018 SYI donors made it possible for Paul & Leticia Evans an unfinished house. With ongoing help from SYI, they have steadily improved the house to the point they are now able to sell it for five times the original purchase price! Their plan is to use the proceeds to purchase a larger plot of land to build a modest house and build separate rooms to rent, which are in great demand, for monthly income. In order to get the best purchase price they first need to lay floor tile and finish painting the interior walls and ceilings.

Security Fencing - \$120:

KD Buyinza's land in Nkokonjeru is filling up with banana trees, thanks to banana suckers from Paul's farm and the Development Team's land. However, to prevent the constant village foot traffic from going across his property he needs to install barbed wire fencing.

New Business Opportunities:

Charcoal/Veggie Stand - \$500: Annet has wanted to start a business since relocating to Mukono from the slums, but things got interrupted by the Covid19. She needs the income and wants to keep busy. The plan is to rent a space next to a busy road not far from where she lives and build a kiosk to sell charcoal, fruits & vegetables. (FYI - Annet still talks about what her life would be like if she were still in the slums...and then she cries. So thankful SYI was able to assist her in getting out!)



Hair/Beauty Training - \$400: Leticia Evans, Paul’s wife, has been learning how to plait hair and do makeup, providing her own supplies. The training is for six months and afterwards she’ll have her own business.

Fish Pond - \$1200: Denis Colins has enough water on his property that will support a fish pond. He needs a liner, cement support, and the fingerlings. The fish (tilapia) will be sold to local restaurants and eventually served at his own food kiosk.

The above lists the new efforts to help businesses get going again. However, Say Yes also helps many people with monthly assistance until they have dependable income of their own. We are putting this before you for your prayers and financial assistance. Many, if not all, of these people would be left dangling, so to speak, without the help they receive from SYI.

Robert: room rent (\$60)

Denis/Sarah Colins: food, medicine, daily needs (\$150); rabbit food (\$50); rent (\$100); help & security on his land (\$20)

Paul/Leticia Evans: monthly support as SYI Liaison (\$200)

DT Guys – Shadrach & Steven: food and labor (\$84 total - \$42 to each)

Annet: rent (\$42); food (\$83)

So there you have it – lots of info, lots of challenges, but nothing too big for God. We say it often, but it’s from the depth of our hearts.....thank you so much for standing with us in prayer and support. This is not just incidental, feel good type of work – it is so very important for the future of many lives. We see the young people we work with as tools in the hand of God to touch many lives who do not yet know Him. We know you see it the same way!

With love,

Virgil & Joy

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