



## November 2020 Newsletter

Since our last newsletter in September the Lord has provided a way forward in the lives of some of our favorite people regarding business.

As of Christmas 2020 it will be a whole year since our dear friend, Annet, and her children were invited to leave a Kampala slum to live in clean & safe living quarters in Mukono. And then it was just a few short months later that Covid19 became a worldwide “pandemic,” which pretty much put life on hold for everyone, including those in Uganda. We had hoped to get Annet set up in a business shortly after getting her resettled, but that didn’t happen. However, Annet kept dreaming. It was as if her departure from the slum opened a room in her heart she had left untended. A room of hopes and dreams set aside after her husband died eight years earlier, leaving her and the children in a world of hurt and far away from familiar surroundings in western Uganda. Family dynamics had prevented her from even thinking about going back to the village. As often happens to widows in Uganda, the husband’s family had somehow confiscated his land and house for themselves so she had nowhere to return to anyway. But now....now things are different. Annet has found new life with Christ, her hope is renewed and she has new strength to live a full life again.

We delight in sharing with you her most recent news - - Annet, along with her daughters, Leticia & Jenifer, visited her home village in western Uganda (Ibanda). They stayed with her mother-in-law, renewing the relationship. She was so happy to see the family again. The Jaja said she would return the land (1/2 acre and house) to Annet and the children! This means Annet can now make plans to raise cows and goats in her home village with her son, Peter. And she’ll be back in the house her husband built! Sure sounds like God heard the cry of her heart, wouldn’t ya say?? Only God could bring this family full circle...wow, how wonderful to be a part of His plan! And thanks to generous donors the entire move and business startup costs are already paid in full! Annet will plan to relocate to Ibanda in West Uganda sometime in January 2021. Thank you, Jesus!



Another God provision is a fish farm for Denis & Sarah Colins. We have wanted to get this business started for Denis for quite some time. The land he has is very well suited for this type of business with free flowing water on it. We asked Denis to do some serious research to find out what was



Workers “excavating” the first pond, which will be 5’ deep – such hard work!

needed and learn how to be a fish “farmer.” He found a company called Sanga Fish Farms in Uganda. They have over 80 ponds and have been doing this for more than eight years. As a result of this research, and with the support of donors interested in seeing lives changed through business ownership, we have been able to help Denis start construction of two 40’x 60’ ponds to support 10,000 tilapia fingerlings.

Of course, there is much more to the process than just the ponds – such as security, bringing electricity to the property for the necessary lighting, fish food, etc. He is working hard each day to get this project up and running. During the pond excavation process Denis has had to deal with trees falling over his fence and into his pond from this neighbor's land. He was able to “harvest” the wood from the trees and cut them into planks for future projects and is strengthening that portion of the fence line.

Did you know monitor lizards like fish? Yep – they are a serious hazard to this type of business. However, they fear dogs! So Denis will get a trained dog for overall security reasons and also to discourage the lizards from approaching the pond. We are learning a lot about this whole fish farming stuff! But we are so happy the project is funded and moving forward! The first harvest of fish is expected in 9-10 months; soon Denis will have a sustainable business to support his family and share his experience with many others.

This is beautiful opportunity to teach a man to fish (literally) and he will, in turn, do likewise for others in a short time.

As we continue to seek God's guidance in how we can help people in Uganda get a sustainable business started for their family, we also continue to help those in need of food and medicine. The lingering effects of Covid19 is still very visible. We send funds to Paul Mukisa Evans, the SYI Liaison, to purchase food in bulk to be distributed to widows in need and others who are struggling in life to provide food for their families. And now there is unrest in the country because of the political campaigns, which has resulted in violence in some of the larger cities and towns. People have been killed, wounded and maimed. Roadblocks are set up in various places by thugs wanting to rob people. Paul and Leticia can hear guns being shot in the trading center from where they live. These are very tenuous times for Ugandans. What we do for the few is making a difference and lets the vulnerable know they have not been forgotten.

We acknowledge the troubling times we live in but we keep our hearts and minds solely focused on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. We know we have a part to play in helping others in Uganda. That is our mandate. We will keep on doing what we can to impact lives with the love of Christ. Thank you so much for standing with us. For praying for the beautiful people of Uganda. And considering how you can help us keep this work going and growing.

With grateful hearts,

*Virgil & Joy*

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