



December 2020 Newsletter

The Year 2020 in Review

It's always good to review the goodness of the Lord; so we hope this newsletter will bring you joy as you review 2020 with us.

To say we've touched many lives in Uganda this year would be an understatement, especially with the coronavirus situation. We have heard Uganda has not experienced the same impact other countries have regarding the number of cases of Covid19. However, the people have suffered greatly under the restrictions imposed upon them. People struggled to get the food and medicine they needed, and education was completely shut down. Businesses were closed. Crime escalated. People died without medical help. Just recently we learned HIV/AIDS patients were not able to get the treatment needed to keep the disease at bay – many are now dying after three or four months without medicine. Grandparents are left to raise the children...again.

As you already know, Uganda has an abundance of sorrowful stories without a worldwide pandemic! But... many God-focused folks have stepped up to help Say Yes help others. And it's those stories we want to focus on.

When least expected widows received enough food to feed themselves and their grandchildren for a month. In fact, we've been able to help up to 15 widows, with or without grandchildren, including a blind widow during several months of the shutdown.

On top of everything else, this has been an exceptional year of malaria and typhoid for many of our friends in Uganda. We have sent money for medical treatment and medicine for 20-25 people. Some of that has also been for childbirth, surgeries, extensive dental treatment, and other medical needs. Say Yes also helped with the expenses of two funerals.

Housing is always an issue for those without dependable income. We have paid rent for several people, built a sleeping room and toilet, a kitchen, and even a brick structure around rabbit cages to protect from weather. And, of course, were delighted to get Annet and her four girls out of the slum and settled into their new living quarters in Mukono! That story is a highlight of the year for us! Just think ...this family doesn't have to worry about gang violence, rape, theft, lack of food or clean water, rain coming through the roof, sleeping on the dirt floor, no electricity, or the extremely filthy environment! This story will be replayed in Heaven for eternity, giving God honor and glory forever! And all because God found the hearts to match the cries of a family in such desperate need.

Business support has included food for livestock, firewood for Sam to burn bricks, compressor repair and paint supplies for KD's auto repair shop, new fish ponds for Denis & Sarah, water tanks, fencing, pump repair for two wells, supplies for Leticia's new salon/beauty business, shade trees for the vanilla vines and a culvert for the road at the Development Team land, and so much more.

Educational tuition was paid for students prior to the pandemic and then again when certain classes were started again.

Say Yes helped KD Buyinza when thieves cut through the security fence to steal items off parked cars in his auto repair shop. They also stole inventory from his parts kiosk. We were able to restore the bulk of what was stolen.

During the course of the last many months Paul Mukisa Evans, Liaison for Say Yes, introduced several people to the love Christ and we continue to celebrate with them. Say Yes gave each one a bible. He is also witnessing to the carpenter we met while we were there earlier this year – he is a Muslim and interested in hearing more about Jesus!

This newsletter reaches just over 100 people. Not all who receive it actually read it, of course – people are busy, and we understand that. We may be few in number but we are mighty in God. With Him all things really are possible! Including new breakthroughs in the New Year! We are confident God has more for Say Yes to do in 2021....so hang on tight for the more of God!

We pray your holidays are filled with God's love and tender mercies. And that you continue to hear His voice clearly as he prompts you to reach out to others with His touch of love.

Here's a collage of some of the people SYI has helped over the course of 2020:



May the blessings of the Lord overtake you now and always! And have a very Merry Christmas!

Virgil & Joy

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Say Yes International is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit public charity; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.