



***June 2021***

**Update on the Health Issues of Our Uganda Family & Friends**

Once again the Friends of Say Yes stepped up to the challenge and gave over-the-top to help during the very serious medical situation in Uganda! To date we have received more than \$5500 and still counting!!! We stand in awe again and again at the goodness of our God and you all! We have already sent more than \$2200 to Uganda to pay for hospital stays, clinic visits, medicine, healthy food and drinks. We fully expect to use all the money we have received, and more, to help these folks through this intense time of so many health challenges.

Statistics seem so impersonal sometimes but at other times they clearly show the very real “personal” side of things:

- The dollar amount noted above has allowed us to assist more than 20 people to date.
- The age range of those helped is 2 years to 85 years old!
- Two of those receiving treatment are pregnant – Leticia (Paul’s wife) and Racheal (Sam’s wife) who are both in their second trimester. It was imperative they receive treatment as soon as possible. Malaria is very dangerous for pregnant women and the child in the womb.
- One person has been diagnosed with the “virus”.
- At least eight of those we’ve helped were admitted to hospital from one to four days.
- Other symptoms treated include malaria, general flu, cough, bacterial infection.

Once treatment is started for malaria the recovery time is actually fairly quick, especially if caught soon enough. But when other issues like the flu and/or cough are thrown into the mix it takes much more time for people to get their strength back.

We expect the number of people needing help to increase before it’s all done. And all along these same people will need to be able to purchase healthy food (not just beans and posho!), and lots of fruits & beverages. Beverages are key for those recovering from malaria – super important to stay hydrated! But these are the very things they don’t have money to buy. With the generous donations Say Yes will be able to help out with these needs, too.

You may wonder about the food/beverage situation in these families. We have mentioned in the past that most of the folks we have relationship with are usually able to purchase posho (a type of flour mixed with water that is supposed to have “nutritional” supplements), beans, and rice. They will add a few fruits like bananas, pineapple, mangoes, papaya, watermelon or jackfruit, as they can. Being on the equator, Uganda has exceptionally fertile soil that can grow just about anything but the locals cannot afford to purchase this very same food in the marketplace. So, if they have a spot of dirt they will plant such things as cassava, avocado, eggplant, tomatoes, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, maize (corn) when they can and enjoy it in the season. If they are able to plant a larger garden they often sell the produce to pay for other things like tuition for their children. Anyway, suffice it to say, the families we are helping simply satisfy their bellies most often with posho, beans, rice, maize, bananas, and a few other things – even they say it’s boring food.

We have just learned President Museveni has called for a partial lockdown due to this outbreak of sickness. For the next 42 days the government is limiting travel, time when shops can be open, and the curfew remains intact (9p-5a). All churches and meeting places, including in-home bible studies, are to be suspended during this time. This is particularly challenging as many businesses had to close their doors

permanently from the first lockdown. Many pastors of small churches in the cities and in the bush have had to close their church permanently due to lack of funds from tithes & offerings. No one knows what kind of results this “partial” lockdown will cause – 42 days is a long time to wait to be able to work again in any capacity.

About the businesses for the Development Team – both their own and the vanilla. So far, in spite of the fact the guys have not been able to actively oversee the activity, all seems well.

- The Team’s land with vanilla and bananas is doing well – the workers living on the land (Shadrach & Steven) got sick but have been able to keep things watered. Harvest time is still 9-12 months out.
- The fish farm & rabbits for Denis & Sarah are both doing okay...pretty much all that needs to be done is feeding. However, the house Denis is building was put on hold for a week or two. That work is now resuming slowly-by-slowly.
- Paul’s farm with the goats and crops is doing likewise – feeding and waiting for harvest time for coffee and bananas.
- Sam started a commodity business providing beans for a local NGO serving the vulnerable people. He was able to deliver five ton of beans before he got sick. He has some time now to recover before he has to re-supply.
- KD’s auto business is doing well, especially since he is now selling tires and doing tire repair – he had to take some time off to stay with his adopted mother, Prossy, while she was in hospital for the goiter surgery. Then he arranged, with Say Yes assistance, to have her transported by special car back to Kikyusa.

By the way, just before writing this newsletter, we sent funds to Annet to purchase a bicycle which her son, Peter, will use to fetch water for the family. The water is free but the well is 1.5 km away. Walking there to wash clothes, fetch water to drink and do dishes and general cleaning is quite burdensome, especially since Annet’s hip/pelvic area are not completely well yet. And paying another guy on his bike to fetch the water for them was just another expense they didn’t need. So now Peter will be able to use the bike to get the water, do errands, and even start his own business of fetching water for others who want to pay. Seems like a great win-win, eh?

As we all know, the needs are many and varied and will continue. And we will continue to help as we are able. Thank you again for your support and love for so many families half-way around the world! The generosity of the Say Yes Friends blesses the heart of our Father and blows our minds!

We say it often, because it’s so true: we count it a high privilege to serve with you to make a difference in so many lives! Paul Mukisa Evans, our Liaison, told us just the other day that none of them “know how all this would end” without the assistance they receive from Say Yes.

*Virgil & Joy*

[www.sayyesinternational.org](http://www.sayyesinternational.org)

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