



July 2021

This month we want to share the little things that can bring a smile. But we also want to share about the very challenging things brought on by others that make someone wonder how much more they can take.

**First ... the smiles:**

Bicycles x 3 – hopefully you’ll remember we talked about this last month. We are happy to report the bikes have been purchased, delivered and are being put to good use even as we speak – all thanks to the Friends of Say Yes for making this possible! Three families have been impacted in a big way. Going uphill is a breeze now and going downhill is effortless and way more fun! Below are excerpts from our conversations with them about just how much they have made a difference.

**DENIS COLINS:** *“...after the lockdown I had to move (walk) more than 14km (8+ miles) to check on an order for work being done on our property. It was so tiresome. Then Say Yes said I was getting a bicycle! The excitement overwhelmed all of us as a family since they could take a ride always. It has been and it will be so beneficial to us. We thank God for its provision in such a season.”*

Cuteness overload right here →



**SAM JACKSON:** *“...now I am able to go to the brickyard easily; a few hills that I go off and it's far better than walking. I easily go to town and buy foodstuffs. I have used it to take medicine to a friend called Reymond who has been sick.”*

**PAUL MUKISA EVANS:** *“...it is of a great use to me. There was a day we needed to buy peanut paste (ground nuts for sauce) costing just 5,000 ush (\$1.45). We had to spend money for a boda guy costing 13,000 ush (\$3.79) to get it for us. That in the world of Economics doesn't apply well! But now am able to do these things without spending. As well my neighbors go through the same hardship; however three of them have been able to send me to come back with some little stuff for them.”*



As for the challenges in Uganda – they seem to be endless, don't they? Here's what we know about the situation as it stands at the moment:

The lockdown is scheduled until at least July 29. Since the number of virus cases have reduced the hope is the government will re-open the country again. Now just imagine you are a vendor on a busy road that has

many pedestrians walk by your kiosk and tons of vehicles drive by each and every hour. At least that's the way it used to be. Then imagine the government told everyone in the country at **9:00 p.m.** that effective at **10:00 p.m.** (just one hour later) all travel would be restricted to within districts, no passenger vehicles allowed on the road, and only drivers of delivery trucks or motorcycles (bodabodas) could be on the road. Walking and being on a bike is okay so long as the curfew is observed. The President told everyone to stay home for the next 42 days! No notice. No opportunity to prepare by storing up dry food or water. As for the vendors....they couldn't go home! They were to stay at their kiosks (outside with an umbrella or tarp) for the next 42 days! What???? That scenario is so hard to imagine, isn't it? We have seen pictures in their newspaper of people sleeping under tarps on the cement or dirt walkways. The government eventually (after many days) provided mosquito nets for those in the greater Kampala area. Not so sure what has been provided for toilets!

We don't want to belabor the situation but it's important you know how the continued lockdown and virus is affecting the good people of Uganda. Death notices are updated daily on the village awareness radio broadcasts. Some people are starving to death and some are dying by suicide. People are eating only porridge when they can and one lady was said to have prepared banana peelings for her family as she had nothing else. Apparently the government has tried to reach the needy but they aren't being very effective as the television reports say only up to 5% of the population have received some sort of assistance. It was reported a man trying to reach a food distribution location on foot collapsed due to starvation and died. Businesses are having to lay off their employees. And now people are disobeying the rules laid down by the government by attempting to work and bodabodas are risking themselves by carrying passengers. Pray with us the lockdown will end soon and people can get back to work and back to growing their own food, even in this time of a very dry season.

As for the people Say Yes has been helping in and around Mukono, they are coming to an end of the food supplies we provided a month ago. Just the other day Paul had a visit from a widow who heard he might be able to help her with some food. Today we sent funds to Paul & Leticia to purchase bulk foods to distribute to the widows. Paul has also told us of the difficulties Pastor Joseph in Lugazi has been facing. His wife passed away in childbirth several years ago leaving him with three children. He has since remarried. Joseph is struggling to feed his kids, his mother and his wife since he can't work until after the lockdown and his church is closed. And the kids are sick, too. Joseph says they go hungry most days. We have sent funds to help him for the next few weeks and will find out more about his situation after Paul chats with him in the coming days. The generous response from the Friends of Say Yes has made it possible for us to relieve the immediate struggles these folks face on a daily basis – THANK YOU SO MUCH! We will continue to help as long as we are able.

To date we have received \$7,515 specifically for the medical and food needs. We have sent more than \$4,400 in response for these needs. It's certain the balance will be used in the coming months. All members of the four families we are in constant touch with have gotten ill, many to the point of needing to be hospitalized. But because of your help all have recovered beautifully – they are alive and well! Together we are literally helping to keep people alive during such trying times! God's love is clearly on display.

Together we stand in prayer before the Throne of Grace for the beautiful people in Uganda!

*Virgil & Joy*

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

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