



August 2021

Below is a wonderful report from the SYI Liaison, Paul Mukisa Evans, regarding efforts to help fellow Ugandans during the trying times of the lockdown in their country. (*And, yes, it is edited for an easier read...*) Get ready, you're gonna find a smile on your face before you finish reading:

It's by God's grace that we are still living. It has been a trying season for most of the Ugandans. It's unfortunate that many of those we know and those we don't know that we have watched on news and awareness village radios have passed on. More so by illnesses (covid and mimic-malaria related) and hunger during the lockdown of 42 days that has seen a lot of adverse effects mentioned above. At least a number between 5-6 people daily have been losing their lives in our communities.

Although the above is happening/has been happening, we are here to testify to our Lord because of SYI. We could be one of the victims of people who lost their lives. In fact, all the SYI team contracted this deadly wave of covid/bad flu related sickness which has been killing majority for the last two months. Specifically in my household (Mukisa Paul Evans) of the five of us we got sick with strong cough, flu, broken bones (*joint aches*), severe headache, loss of appetite, fever, loss of smelling. I, Paul, had never suffered sickness lasting for 2-3 weeks before healing. All my family members had IVs on their arms and some admitted and administered on with drips. Just like how I have briefly detailed how my family was, that's the same way how all SYI family was (*the Development Team families*).

Now look, all those who have been losing their lives that's exactly how they got sick and couldn't resist death. That's the same way we would be if it was not God through SYI. Those who died we never knew they didn't have enough resources to go for medical treatment, which was too expensive, and they didn't have enough for personal home treatment food, drinks, or supplements. On behalf of all individuals that SYI has extended support to, I testify that SYI extended all the necessary support in this trying season, we were able to seek for better treatment and we were able to feed ourselves with required meals and drinks.

Like it has been mentioned, not only did the illness cause havoc, the adverse effects of the lockdown has been another serious illness. We have seen and heard people collapsing due to starvation via news on TVs in our communities as well. There has also been a tremendous increase in crime rate, especially theft.

On the elderly widow part of support extended, God has been faithful to see that even those who are ignored in the community, and don't have anyone to tend to them, are attended to. We have been able to serve over 15 homesteads with the necessary home essentials including the Word of God and encouragement. By God's grace Mariam, one of the widows, gave her life to Christ; we as well extended food, medical support, home needs like soap, fuel, etc. to her.

Below are some of the widows SYI has reached to:

#NAYIGA ANNAH:

She has been a Catholic for the whole of her life. Nayiga is a total widow; her husband and children all died most of them by AIDS and some were killed during Obote and Amini's regime. She lives a desperate life. She used to cultivate for her own food but things changed after which she no longer has proper sight and painful limbs. She has been shown love by SYI through the support given and with previous support. We have been preaching to her oftenly but this time round because she was overjoyed she said "WHAT CAN I GIVE YOU IN RETURN, WHATEVER YOU TELL ME I WILL DO." I did not take long to reply...I instantly said as long as you confess salvation you will have paid us everything. Jesus loves you and He will be happy for it. NAYIGA INSTANTLY SAID AM READY, PRAY FOR ME. Immediately I and my wife Leticia took the ground; I led her into confession and Leticia led in the general prayer. Nayiga has high blood pressure and ulcers - we prayed for all this. (Praise the Lord!!!)



#ZALWANGO LYDIA:

She is a believer with a homestead of 8 children three not her biological and five her own, sleeping in a two small roomed mud shell. She is a mother and a father even though she has a husband but one who doesn't take responsibility of his family. It's Lydia to find a way of bringing food on the table, educating, providing all the necessary home stuff. Most of her kids don't attend school; she only makes sure that she survives. The day we took food package to her she had just sent one of her kids to buy a quarter kg of posho (corn flour) to make porridge for their day's meal, I mean porridge without sugar. When she saw us ... BOOM smiles ran all over her face.



#JOAN NABAKOOZA:

Joan is a believer who is a single mother. We got to know her from one of the elderly widows we support through our conversation with her. Joan was going through a very hard time amidst a hard season. She has been having stomach complication for long but couldn't afford medical attention. Being a bread winner for her family she could not put aside cultivating in order to get food crops for her family, but of recent around two weeks back she could no longer do anything because of severe pain. Some of the church members got to know about her situation and tried to mobilize some money, but could not reach the asking cost from the hospital. Because she couldn't afford being at home, she thought better to at least go in any smaller clinic so as she is in the hands of nurses for some pain killers. Here was her miracle - there came a man (doctor) all the way from the North who had come to visit his friend in that clinic. He came to



know about Joan's issue and the doctor was touched. He committed himself to work on Joan at very little money, a quarter of what was needed in the big hospital. She only had to pay 300,000 (about \$87 USD) out of 2m ush (about \$581 USD) that she was to pay! (WOW!! That's huge!) By the time we visited her, it was indeed the right time to receive visitors with some package and prayers from SYI. (An amazing story! It is clear Holy Spirit directed the steps of the Task Force!)

#Here comes KNIGHT:

It's only something small that brought sympathy to me and my Task Force. By the time we took her relief package we found her and three grand kids in sorrow. They only had 1000 ush (about 29 cents USD); they had spent 500 ush (about 15 cents USD) on buying sardines (small fish) which they had begun to prepare for their meal. They had retained 500 out of 1000 ush There is a saying in Luganda that goes "EKUBBA OMUNAKU TEKYA" meaning the rain that showers a needy/poor person doesn't cease. Knight had two small bottles that resembled, one for kerosene for her small lamp and the other for her cooking oil. She mistakenly sent one of her grand kids to buy cooking oil for 200 ush (about 6 cents USD) with a bottle that was meant for kerosene. Time came for cooking so Knight got her kerosene bottle with cooking oil and applied in the sauce pan with sardines, only realizing that the oil had kerosene in it. That's when their hope for lunch had ended. We felt blessed for having reached to Knight at this particular time.



#NALULE CISSY:

She is a widow with four grand kids. One of the kids Peter was dropped to her after the mother whom Cissy had adopted nine years back ran away, leaving her 6 month old baby. Nalule has raised Peter from 6 months to now he is 9 yrs. On visiting Cissy, she had borrowed 1kg of sugar worth 4000k (\$1.16 USD) from the nearby retail shop to mix in the porridge. Cissy did not have any strategy of how the debt would be paid. So there came SYI Task Force who gave her stuff including sugar almost five times the one she borrowed and cleared her debt.



#Meet MUSISI JAMES 68 yrs:

Staying alone as a man without a companion is something hard as a man. He has been living alone for the last 10 years, he is a widower whose wife died; she gave birth to 5 children, 3 succumbing to HIV/AIDS and two living a desperate life. We met James seated alongside the feeder road, we stopped by and had some interview with him. He didn't have anything to feed his stomach so we did the needful thing and blessed him with the gift bag of necessities.



NOTE. Most of the above have been our first time to reach out to, however, most of the elderly widows that we have been helping before were helped as well including Namazi Magret (the blind), Sekalo Steven, Nakitende Eva, etc. - they have been so appreciative.

In conclusion: May the Almighty God bless SYI for the impact it has done towards the people of Uganda, the blessings that you are getting is unmeasurable. Matthew 25:31-40 says it all. May God richly bless you.

So there you have it – God at work through His kids in Uganda because of His kids right here in the good ol’ USA! And, by the way, the bananas you see in the pictures are from the Development Team farm. Paul was able to get a friend who just happens to be a police officer to accompany him to the farm, which insured he would be able to get there and back without hassles, just so he could get the bananas to add to each care package. Pretty cool, eh?

Once again, we thank God for each one who reads the Say Yes newsletters and shares the stories of what God is doing in Uganda with others. We are privileged to be the messengers of hope in the mighty Name of Jesus! Together we really are making a difference....

With love and many blessings to you and your family,

Virgil & Joy

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A favorite picture from years ago with twin baby girls...cute babies rule! ☺