

RAINING HOPE

“And he will send showers of rain so every field becomes a lush pasture.” Zechariah 10:1

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Thank you testimonies for the Christmas Meals

Thank you message for the Christmas Gifts for the family

Stateside:

Raining Hope Inc.

c/o Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road #206
Ventura, CA 93003

Eydie Miskel

Executive Director

805-340-7612
eydie@raininghope.org

Carol John - Treasurer

805-377-7387
carol@raininghope.org

Heather Elkins - Secretary

805-766-4087
heather@raininghope.org



DEAR RAINING HOPE SUPPORTERS:

On behalf of Raining Hope Incorporated, I would like to thank everyone for your prayers & financial support over the last year. We know there are many needs in our communities and throughout the world. We thank you for your generosity in choosing to help the family of Raining Hope in Uganda. I am overwhelmed with all that God has done not just in the last year but in the past twelve years since I first traveled to Uganda. A letter was sent to all our financial supporters with the highlights of 2018. It is a long list that is a beautiful reminder of just how much He has done.

Thank you for your prayers and support on my last trip to Uganda. I am still working on the updates covering the last weekend of the trip. They will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

This edition is a combination of January/February. A special edition follows this Newsletter regarding the first term school fees that are currently due in order for the students to start school.

In this issue you will find words of thanksgiving for the Christmas meals that were given this year. You will also find a thank you for the Raining Hope students for their Christmas gifts.

This trip we celebrated the graduations of Jonathan & Jesca from Nursing School, Sylvia from Journalism/Radio/TV Production School and Godfrey from Alpha Omega Bible Seminary. It was also a privilege to honor Godfrey & Irene on their 10th Wedding Anniversary. They honored me on my 25th trip to Uganda. The next update will give more details into that grand celebration!

Emmanuel - “GOD WITH US” was the theme for Christmas 2018. God is with us and is using the unique gifting of the Raining Hope students to change the world around them. The support you give continues to help them be one step closer to their dreams becoming reality. We want to be explained by the miraculous so that only God gets the credit for doing only what He can do. You are helping us make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda. You are helping them change the world!

Raining Hope will carry the theme, “Emmanuel, God With Us” throughout 2019. Godfrey also is leading the ministry in Uganda with the theme of glorifying God in all we do.

“ We live in a world that glorifies its advancements. Yet as a ministry we recognize that without him we can do nothing hence glory be to God.” Please join us this year as we watch and see what only He can do as we bring glory to Him.

Happy New Year !
Mama Eydie Kisakye



Thank You for the Christmas Meal Blessing - Christmas 2018

Raining Hope blessed twenty five families with rice, beef, sugar, soap, bread, margarine & cooking oil. It was a gesture of love from the Raining Hope family to point to the true Giver of the greatest gift of all - JESUS. We were also able to bless a few families in our Ambercoat Community. They continue to see the children of Raining Hope as a Beacon of Light. The following are two testimonies from Mary & Michael who you gave the GIFT OF HOPE with your generosity.

TESTIMONIES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Mary is a neighbor of Raining Hope at Ambercoat. She is a widow with three girls and one boy. She sells cooked food on the street to survive and takes care of her four children. Her biggest challenge is to educate her children single-handedly as a widow. She survives on a single meal a day. Three of her children are part of the Raining Hope Ministry as ministers in the choir. During Christmas, they were beneficiaries of the Christmas meal. We gave them the gifts for Christmas and they were so grateful. This is their testimony in their own words.

"We were used to our lowly life and waited to have our Christmas with my children just as usual. This Christmas meal you have given unto me and my children came as a surprise to us. We've been encouraged by your act of love. I appreciate Raining Hope for such love that you have shown to us. My children are happy to be at your church and I will soon join. My challenge is that even on Sunday I am working because if I don't my children will not eat. I trust God to get a better business so I can have time to worship Him. Even on this Christmas day I am meant to work but thank God for your gift. This gift has shown me that the Lord God loves my family. Thank you so much to Raining Hope."

This family experienced the Love of God through the Christmas meal. This is how much God used the Christmas meal. We love because He first loved us. My appreciation to all who contributed towards the Christmas meal to families. It's a great encouragement to families here in Uganda.

May God richly bless you.

With thankfulness,

Godfrey

Raining Hope Ministries Uganda



TESTIMONIES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

MICHAEL'S TESTIMONY



Godfrey (Left) Michael (Right)

Michael is one of our church members who is suffering from multiple sclerosis. He can no longer walk by himself. As a church, we try to help him so that he can have food since he is not working. We went to visit him at one point when everyone thought that he was going to die. We gave him hope when we prayed with him. He was in church before the disease advanced to that level. His friends advised him to leave church and try the witch doctors for healing. Amidst such a temptation, he stood his ground and trusted God. We continue to pray for Him that the Lord will make a way out for him. When we brought him the Christmas meal, he was so happy and told us what that meant to him in his own words.

Michael: "I thank God for this meal that you have brought to me, My mother and I were seated here wondering what we were going to eat on Christmas. We prayed and trusted God to provide. I brought a suggestion to my mother that everyone brings the little they have so we can put it together to buy food but we couldn't raise it. We had no other choice but to wait on God. When you gave me this food in such a situation, I received it as God's message of hope to me. I believe that this is God's sign of hope through Raining Hope. I was going to starve on this Christmas day but God has given me this sign of hope. I thank Raining Hope and the pastor for considering me worthy of this meal. I am happy and amazed at what God can do. I pray that the Lord will reward you for this great work,"

Since then Michael picked up more vigor to wait on the Lord. We never know how far such a humble gift of a Christmas meal may go in one's heart. Michael's testimony encourages us to not underestimate what we do for others. However little, it makes a difference.

I appreciate every hand that contributed towards the Christmas meal for families. I pray that the Lord Jesus will meet you all at the point of your need. We love you and pray for you always.

With Thankfulness,

Godfrey - Raining Hope Ministries Uganda

Special Note:

I met Michael on New Year's Eve at our Overnight Celebration. He had shared this testimony with me. He said that he had given up all hope. Not only did the Christmas meal make a difference, the messages on New Year's Eve helped him to know that Emmanuel, God is with Him. He said he will not forget that. He believes he can keep moving forward because of the new hope he has in the simple truth that God is with Him.

Michael and even Godfrey had no idea what multiple sclerosis was or what causes it. He told me he gets teased a lot by others because of his condition. He no longer walks and his hands shake. The reason he was being told to go to witch doctors was because most people there think the disease is something like a virus you catch. They think that witch doctors can just make multiple sclerosis just disappear giving him false hope. It gave Michael more peace to understand better what the disease was. You can see the peace of Christ in his talk and the joy in his smile.

Godfrey is trying to find more ways that we can come alongside Michael in the days to come. He is an amazing man who loves the Lord. He touched my heart deeply when I was there. Please keep Michael in your prayers.

TESTIMONIES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO THE RAINING HOPE FAMILY

Our children live together as a family. This is different from other organizations whose children don't live together. Giving one main gift for the whole family has worked beautifully the past three years.

Because this year we have had to focus on renovations, audit & new government regulations, Godfrey wanted to keep the Christmas gift simple. What they really needed was new clothing and shoes. Because of my luggage limitations, we buy the clothing there rather than bring any from the US. The cost ended up being only \$28 per student.

We had an amazing time shopping for the students this year. Because they are older, Godfrey made the decision to bring them all to the market so they could choose what they needed the most. Some of them needed new shoes. Others needed new backpacks for school. They all received at least one outfit plus whatever else was the most priority. The update I sent out to those on the mailing list has more details on our day of shopping. It will also be posted on the blog when I get all the updates done.

Here is a thank you written by one of our students on behalf of the whole family:

Greetings to all our dear friends and supporters in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Happy New Year!

We had a great time with our mother, Eydie Kisakye. She has told us how much you have been of great support to make sure that we go to school, have food, medication and all other needs. Thank you for standing with her and the entire family of Raining Hope.

We are also thankful for the Christmas gifts that we received from all of you. I wish you were here to see how happy a day it was as every one of us received their Christmas gift. The poses and smiles as everyone put on their new clothing, shoes and heels made it such a big day for the Raining Hope family.

Through your support our lives have not remained the same and the community has been blessed through us. We pray that God will continue to use you and reward you as you stand with us. We love you and we pray for you!

In Him,

The Raining Hope Family



Note: I had new friends that I met this year in the SF Bay Area who wanted to give towards the Christmas gift to the children. As a small group of five people, they collected \$250 towards this year's gift. That helped us tremendously in order to provide all we needed to provide the students with Christmas gifts this year. They asked if they could do that more throughout the year. We are currently looking into ways small groups can raise money for needs throughout the year.