

RAINING HOPE

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

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Special thanks from our family

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A Christmas Thank You

As part of our Beacon of Hope program, at Christmas time the sponsors were asked to donate towards Christmas gifts for all the children. Due to a few large donations, we received enough to do some very special things this Christmas and they were all given in the name of all sponsors and donors.

We were able to **buy new clothes for each child & staff member**. We bought **journals** for the children to write down one thing every night what they are thankful for.

We had **TWO parties**, one for New Year's and one for birthdays before I traveled home.

The main gift was an **educational field trip to the zoo in Entebbe**. This was a major event in the lives of the children. The area we live is not populated with animals. A trip to the zoo is the one opportunity most of the children will ever have to see these animals up close. A child in Uganda may go to the zoo once in their lifetime mainly during primary school years. Only four of our twenty seven children have had the opportunity to go to the zoo. The trip included the **rental of a bus, the entry fee, breakfast rolex (chapati with eggs) & soda**. On the way home, we had one more surprise of **chicken on a stick & roasted bananas** for all!

You can read in more detail about this tremendous day at the zoo at Eydie's blog. www.raininghopeuganda.blogspot.com The trip is Chapter 23, Update #6 & #7. I will include more testimonies from the children in Update #8. **THANK YOU FOR MAKING THEIR CHRISTMAS ONE TO REMEMBER!**



UPDATE ON DROUGHT/FAMINE CRISIS IN UGANDA:

I asked Godfrey to write an update on the growing drought/famine situation. In a special update I sent in November, I explained that in the 10 years since being called to Uganda, this is the first time I have been made aware of anything like this at a crisis level for the country. While I was in Uganda in January, I saw for myself the evidence of the severity of the situation. The normally lush, green land was replaced with dying crops. Even though we have food, the way we are directly affected is by skyrocketing prices. A 100 pound bag of sugar DOUBLED in price. While talking to Godfrey this week, he told me that the country's parliament is directly involved to determine next steps that will effect the whole nation. This will include raising school fees starting the second term. Part of our fees include their lunch meal. The schools across the nation are monopolizing the supply of beans which is leaving less for the public. They also are purchasing the better beans which is leaving a substantially lower grade for others. Godfrey said the parliament is close to calling this a catastrophe or in our terms a "state of emergency." **The reason for this information is to call on all of you to commit the nation of Uganda to God in Prayer.**

"Uganda is an agriculture based country where most of the citizens depend on substance farming to earn a living. It has been a while that the country has not received adequate rains to enable crop growth. Because of this long drought, many families depend on one meal a day for survival and some parts of the country they depend on porridge once a day to survive. While you were here in January, you witnessed how dry crops were and that has continued until today. The country continues to depend on the stored food from a few that do commercial farming and have irrigation of which their supply cannot meet the demand of 30 million plus population. The prices of many agricultural products have gone high mostly the food and others are running to refugee camps to survive. There are those who are starving to death as we continue to watch on our media platforms.

Today it became a concern in the parliament of our country as they discuss possible solutions to the drought that has caused famine in the country. **They say if it doesn't rain by March, Uganda is headed to face a greater famine than as it was in 1944.** I witnessed people eating peelings of potatoes to survive. Animals are found dead even domestic animals which affects animal husbandry and tourism. As per now, prices of food have gone high raising the cost of living even in villages.

I therefore, **request for your prayers** as the word of God calls upon us to remember those who are starving. **Pray that it may rain again in Uganda** so that we can plant again. **Pray** for better farming methods to our country such as irrigation, afforestation, and swamp reclamation. **Pray** for those who have no food that the Lord will make a way of provision unto them. **If we stand together in prayer, the Lord will work it all out according to his great power and redeem our nation from such a catastrophe.**

Above all, we continue to thank God for his continual provision to the Raining Hope family. The Lord has kept us and provided unto us according to His good pleasure. Thanks for standing with us in such times."

Pray for Rain in Uganda, Godfrey, Manager of Raining Hope Uganda



Baptisms!

Over the past ten years we have known that all our children had at one time or another accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But no one had ever helped them to understand the need to follow in obedience in the ordinance of baptism. Godfrey has been helping them understand about baptism and did extensive training. We gained permission from the zoo officials on our trip to have the baptisms at their "beach" area in Lake Victoria.

Most children do not know how to swim and are really afraid of the water. That caused some apprehension.

But as each one went into the water, the expression on their faces as they were raised to walk in newness of life was inspiring! Even Esther said, "I no longer fear the water!"

Those baptized were:

Esther, Florence, young Joanne, Difasi, Dan, Vivian, Doreen, Tabitha, Tamarah, Joel, Silvia, Jemimah, Maria, Sharon & Ronald!

Photos of all the baptisms are available on our blog: Chapter 23 Day #7

PRAYER REQUESTS



Sympathy

Please be in prayer for our Raining Hope family. One of our children, Difasi lost his mother on February 5, 2017. She passed away after a period of being ill. Our Raining Hope family ministered in a mighty way to Difasi and his immediate family during this time of loss.

We were able to help the family with providing food. We also helped with the burial services to lend our generator to provide lighting because their place has no electricity and is extremely dark. They were so thankful for the heart we showed to the bereaved, most especially to Difasi. Our children were on ground sorting beans, rice and helping here and there. Henry & Hillary stood alongside Difasi.



Silvia providing assistance

Our van is in need of tender loving care! On the way to the burial for Difasi's mom, **a truck hit our van** and damaged the back end. No one was hurt. The driver of the truck was at fault. They agreed to pay for the repairs. They paid a portion but now have disappeared. The police are now involved to try to track down the owners.



Then on Wednesday, February 15th, **one of the tires on our van finally got tired and blew out** when Godfrey was driving home from town. No one was hurt. Thankfully he was able to get a spare from a friend and make it back home. On the way to get new tires on Saturday, **the timing belt broke which then broke the shaft!** Because we had just sent money for food and supplies we were able to get it fixed.

Ongoing prayer request for financial needs according to priority: The certification requirements are first priority. We can call for final inspection as soon as these two areas are completed:

Setting up **nursing station:** \$1,046 Setting up **office:** \$221

Continued renovation needs: 1. New Roof - \$4974 2. Electrical repairs \$366 3. Plumbing - \$1318 4. Rain Water Harvest Tank - \$1,068 5. Painting Boy's Quarters - \$1,026 6. Painting Main House - Waiting on estimate

A Word of thank you from the Raining Hope Family



I am privileged to write this letter with all our love to all our supporters. For all of you to support us it is like a Good Samaritan who picks a person up on the road. Then they care by giving clothes, washing and feeding him. We are all testimonies at Raining Hope of the love

We did not believe that any of our dreams would come true. But today at Raining Hope, we are people who have Christ in us and are living with the hope of His glory. We are watching our dreams come true!

While Mum Kisakye was here, we had a time of discipleship and growing deeper in our relationship with Jesus. We watched a Bible study that helped teach us many things about trusting God & praying continually. We studied the Armor of God and focused on the importance of the shoes of peace and the belt of truth. The enemy will always send fires to distract us. It could be the fire of poverty, failing exams, lacking food to eat, what to wear, or even those who have died. We should always keep smiling in God. We should not ever give up. Through the study we were able to know more about God and His love for us. We are learning to trust Him in all circumstances.

God always has great plans for us. Plans to prosper us, not to harm us. Plans to give us hope and a great future (Jeremiah 29:11). . I just love that. And, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8:38-29)



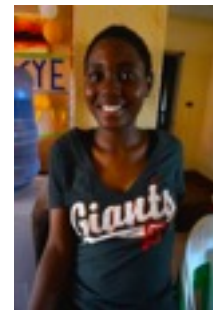
We Love You, Jonathan

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hereby thank you for each and everything you have done. I thank you for the love and care you have for all of us. First I thank you for the Christmas gifts that were given to us from all those who support Raining Hope. It was an awesome surprise to be able to go to the zoo. We were able to see our favorite animals like lions, snakes, zebras, and giraffes face to face. What I loved on this trip is that we got to walk together as a family with our mum. Mum Kisakye was so happy to see us together as a family.

As we were coming back, Mum Kisakye had another surprise which was chicken on a stick for all of us. She told us it came from all those who support us as part of our Christmas gift. I thank all of you. May the Almighty God bless you.

On 5th of January 2017, some of our were baptized which was a very good experience in my life. I like it so much. I really, really thank you so, so very much. Please continue to love our Mum Kisakye.

Thanks a lot. God bless you, Sharon



First Term School Fees & Supplies 2017

Pray for our students of Raining Hope as they begin their 2017 school year. The fees are for the first term only out of three terms for the year. For Primary & Secondary school, the first term is always highest (new uniforms, new year supplies). There is a drop in fees the second and third terms.

Secondary School

Frank	Senior 6
Vivian	Senior 6
Esther	Senior 5
Henry	Senior 5
Florence	Senior 5
Tabitha	Senior 5
Joel	Senior 4
Doreen	Senior 4
Ronald	Senior 2
Sharon	Senior 2
Zuluta	Senior 1
Maria	Senior 1
Sophia	Senior 1
Difasi	Senior 1

Dreams and Goals

Politician
Accountant
Doctor
Engineer
Lawyer
Journalist
Musician or Engineer
Midwife
Pilot
Musician
Accountant
Accountant
Fashion & Design
Business Man



Total School fees and supplies for 14 students :
(Average first term \$135 per student or \$45 a month)

\$1901

Primary School

Joanne	Primary 7
Tamarah	Primary 7
Waiswa	Primary 6
Dan	Primary 5
Jemimah	Primary 5
Jael	Primary 2
Jireh	Top Class (Nursery School)

Dreams and goals

Nurse
Accountant
Soccer Player
Army
Pastor
Pilot



Total School fees & supplies for Primary & Nursery Students :
(Average first term \$85 per student or \$28 a month)

\$594

Post Secondary School/Trade School

*Joan	COMPLETED!	Cosmetology (working on internship)	Journalist
	(For Graduation & Report Fee)	\$73	
Jessica	Nursing	Doctor - \$567 + \$34 Misc. supplies	
Jonathan	Nursing	Doctor - \$146 + \$34 Misc. supplies	
(Cost for one nursing student is \$600 a term. We had a credit of \$421 from last term)			
Sylvia	Radio & TV Production	Journalist	\$354

GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL 25 STUDENT SCHOOL FEES: \$3703