

RAINING HOPE

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

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Stateside:

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To the Raining Hope Supporters:

As Raining Hope Ministries Uganda, we are so thankful to you all in the way the Lord has used you all to bless us. This year has been another year of miracles as we see God take

us from one level to another. God has used you in many areas, to provide medication, school fees, and food and taking care of the bills and many other necessities. Thank you all for standing with Mum Kisakye and Raining Hope as a whole. You are such a blessing to this ministry. We thank God for the work He is doing through the ministry here in Uganda. We are reaching out to the community around us with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

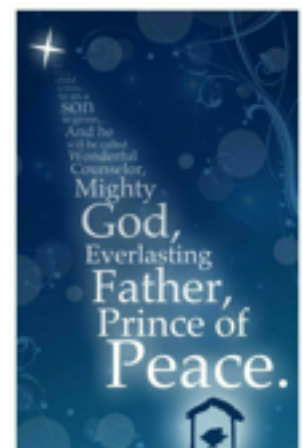
Thank you for loving us and praying for us. Continue to pray for us that we may know Him better and walk in his path. Also that we may be good stewards of the gospel he has entrusted to us.

We cannot thank you enough but one thing that is true with us is that we carry you always in our hearts and prayers during our devotion. You all hold a special position in our hearts. We will always hold you with the highest regard for your unwavering support to this ministry.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

May the good God bless you all with good health.

Love from,
Godfrey & the children of Raining Hope





Raining Hope 40 Days of Prayer for New Year's Eve - Uganda

December 1, 2017-January 9, 2018

Eydie will be traveling to Uganda, December 28, 2017-January 9, 2018. Raining Hope Ministries will have an overnight New Year's Eve service. Eydie returns from Uganda January 8th and arrives back in the US on January 9th. It fits perfectly for another 40 Days of Prayer! We hope you have been able to pray with us daily leading up to this important ministry opportunity. We are sorry we did not post weekly prayer requests like announced in the last update. Here are specific prayer requests for December 31, 2017.

1. Pray for all the **preparations** that are taking place in Uganda.
2. Pray for the **people to turn up that night**. Traditionally, church members attend overnight services on New Year's Eve. We pray that those who turn up will enter the New Year in the presence of our God. **Our theme for 2018 is "Rebuilding the Broken Walls."** As people enter a new year, they should consider rebuilding their relationship with God especially in areas where the enemy has struck the hardest.
3. **Pray for God to use Godfrey and Mama Eydie who will be the main speakers that night.** Pray for the **Raining Hope Praise Team** as they prepare to lead us in worship as we enter into the year 2018..
4. Pray for the **financial needs for the trip (airfare, in-country transport, hotel)**. Pray as well for the budget for the New Year's Eve service which includes security, refreshments, publicity & decorations.
5. Please contact Carol John if you have questions about making a donation. There is power in prayer! Thank you for joining us in this important event in the lives of our Raining Hope Family!

Raining Hope Annual Tamale Christmas Fundraiser Update & The Thomas Fire - Ventura County



Aaron Kajumba &
Mama Kisakye



Devo Marshall, Founder
of Living Hope
Children's Home with
Mama Kisakye

The tamale fundraiser on December 2, 2017 was a great success! We were able to raise about half of the needed school fees that will be due mid-January for the first term. Special thanks to Sylvia Hernandez for her loving gift of making delicious tamales each year (with the assist of Heather Elkins and Mama Eydie!). We are thankful to Pastor Jasper Butler & Dove Christian Ministries for opening up their church to host the event this year. It worked perfectly for us! I am thankful to Aaron Kajumba, Pastor & Director of Fishers of Men, Uganda who came to share a few words about what God is doing in Uganda through their ministry. I am so thankful to Ladell Marsh and the "Sunday Mornin'" Praise Team who came to lead us in praise & worship. It was important to me to start the annual event with a time of worship to give God first fruits of the fundraiser. I can't explain the deep yearning & determination I had to find a place to accommodate the band for this time of worship. Little did I know how important this would become.

Just two days later, December 4, 2017, the Thomas Fire broke out in Ventura County. As of today (December 20) the fire is only 55% contained. It is anticipated to be 100% contained by January 7, 2018. I left for Maryland that same day and received the news once we landed that evening in Washington DC. All of Ventura has been affected by the fire, especially by the smoke. Thankfully, our personal home was not in the mandatory evacuation zone. Our Raining Hope offices at Poinsettia Pavilion were directly in the path of the fire and almost lost. Here is the story that was posted by Ventura Land Trust, fellow tenants of Poinsettia Pavilion:

"Hooray for Hector Andrade, the Poinsettia Pavilion's caretaker for more than 20 years. On Monday night, as the fire raced down Ventura's hillsides, Hector, his wife, Joanne, and son, Hector, Jr., saw it coming and turned on the sprinklers, grabbed hoses and shovels and fought back the flames. With danger closing in, Hector refused to leave until the firefighters arrived. He stayed across the street and once they allowed him to return, he was back at it putting out hot spots and protecting the building throughout the night. We are convinced that if it were not for Hector and his family, the Poinsettia Pavilion would be nothing but a memory and Ventura Land Trust would be homeless today. Hector is our HOMETOWN HERO!"

You can read the "20 Things That Happened in Ventura Since the Thomas Fire" at the following: (This story is #12) <https://visitventuraca.com/blog/20-good-things-that-happened-in-ventura-since-the-thomas-fire/>



Sunday Mornin' Praise Team &
Mama Kisakye

(cont. page 4)

Raining Hope Annual Tamale Christmas Fundraiser Update & The Thomas Fire - Ventura County

(continued from page 3)



Amanda, Dustin, Naomi
& Josiah Rogers & Mama
Kisakye

From the ashes, a beautiful story of faith and hope have emerged. **Amanda & Dustin Rogers** are friends who were at the Raining Hope fundraiser with their children. We invited Dustin to bring his beautiful handcrafted pens and wooden items to sell at our event. Sadly their home and property were lost in the fire including all of his equipment to make the pens. Talking to Amanda I was inspired by her faith and trust in God even in the midst of loss. Her humble spirit and peace of Christ are speaking loudly where there are no words.

Here is an amazing testimony of what was thought lost...

"...Around 7:30 PM I saw the news of the fire on Facebook and we went outside and saw the glow behind the mountain. My husband and I started to pack when the power went out. It was then we decided to pack the truck up with essentials. When we left, I was awash with memories. I've been in this house for 36 years. This is the house I grew up in, prepared to get married in, brought my child home from Community Memorial Hospital to and the one I thought I'd live my final days in. We left our van at our home not knowing that when we returned we would be returning to a severely damaged home. After we salvaged a few items, I went to put them in the van when **I discovered the firefighters had packed my van** with all our framed family photos, quilts, baby books, and a 3 1/2 foot jewelry stand my father in law made out of pine. My heart burst with gratitude. **Thank you firefighters.**"

And the amazing testimony that leaves us speechless:

"Even after 10 years, Raining Hope is never far from my thoughts and prayers. I have watched from afar, these children that I love, grow in the statue of the Lord and I am blessed by the amazing work our Father has created in them. We finally had a chance to go to the fundraiser as a family and I was so excited to have my children see with their own eyes, the work of God through Raining Hope. Eydie was adamant that the event begin with worship. **She had no idea that the time spent worshipping would prepare our family's hearts and set the stage for a very difficult season.**

Two short days after the fundraiser, our home was destroyed by the Thomas Fire. I am convinced that we were able to meet the stress of losing our home, our clothes, and our belongings because **God had set our hearts on His firm foundation during the time of worship at Raining Hope's Fundraiser.** God used that worship to remind me of His goodness, His character, and His Ways. He is not some mystical being, He calls me friend. And He desires to know me and be known by Him. I received an extra measure of peace during that worship time that continues to carry me through this very uncertain and troubling season as we salvage that which was lost and look forward to restoring that which was damaged. At every step of the way I am reminded that I was lost. I was damaged. But the God of Jacob, Abraham, and Isaac has found me and restored my heart to Him and I will praise Him through this storm." *Amanda Rogers*

DECEMBER 2017

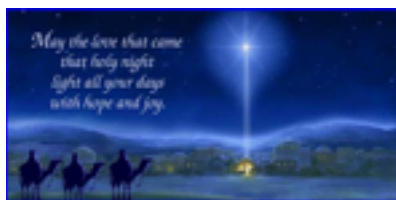


This Christmas the family at Raining Hope are sharing the love of Christ by blessing the families of our children and others in need with a Christmas meal.

Most of our children have guardians or one parent that they visit during the Christmas holiday. Last year we visited all the immediate families of our children and blessed them with a traditional Christmas meal of rice and beef. This is the appropriate cultural gift to be presented at this time of year.

Rice and beef are not affordable for most of these families. This year we are going to **bleed 40 families with rice, beef, sugar and soap. Taking families a Christmas meal will be a gesture of love from the Raining Hope family to point to the true Giver of the greatest gift of all - JESUS.** As the community continues to see the children of Raining Hope as a Beacon of Light, this gift of food will bring of the **GIFT OF HOPE** to the families of our children.

We want to thank the families of Ed & Gloria Sotelo who made these meals possible this year. Enough was provided that we will also bless those that attend on Christmas with a special lunch. Godfrey has been ministering to some of the street kids who have no home. They will be blessed with a Christmas meal this season through the generosity of this gift. Thank you Gloria & Ed! In this season of giving, may our children be an encouragement to you as they reach out to those who are in need!



Christmas Gifts for Raining Hope Family

Eydie will be leaving for Uganda on December 28, 2017. We would like to purchase **one main Christmas gift for all our children.** 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 two years.

Two years ago the Christmas gift was a much needed TV for the home as ours was stolen. Last year, we took all the children to the zoo on a once in a lifetime trip for them. Once I am in Uganda, Godfrey & I will make decisions on what is needed most for this year. We also buy clothing for each one as part of their Christmas gift. Because of the luggage limits, we buy the clothing there.

Since I leave next week, if you would like to make a donation towards the **children's Christmas gift or for any of the trip expenses, please contact Carol John or Heather Elkins** (info on page 1) to let them know you want to participate. Due to the Thomas Fire, access to the office has been limited & mail has been delayed. Heather does pick up all mail at the office while I am traveling. You can also make the donation on our website by credit card. Please mark your donation "Christmas." Thank you for your prayers and support for making this a Christmas for the Raining Hope family to remember!



Please continue to pray for those affected by the Thomas Fire. Pray during the time of restoration & recovery. Pray for the air quality and those affected by the smoke.

Those who are a part of our Raining Hope Supporters who live in the affected area of Ojai include:

Dustin, Amanda, Naomi & Josiah Rogers

Karen & Kyle Smith

Bruce & Teresa Archer

Springs of Life Church - Pastor Doug & Lynn Jones

Ed Lamb

Devo Marshall & Families

First Baptist Church of Carpenteria



Pray for continued financial needs



As we look back on 2017 we are so thankful for everything that the Lord has done. He has provided for all of our needs. We are thankful to each one of you who have prayed and supported our Raining Hope family. Each donation has been received with thanksgiving knowing how much you love our children.

We continue to pray specifically for our financial needs. The upcoming Tamale Fundraiser is used to help pay for the **first term school fees**. The first term is always the highest. Last year, due to those we now have in post secondary school, the fees for the first term were over \$4,000 for the 26 children in school. This includes two in nursing school, one in broadcasting and one in computer.

Our monthly budget in Uganda is approximately \$1700.

This is separate from school fees. This covers food, medical, salaries, transportation, clothing and other miscellaneous items. **Our goal is to be able to send this budget money at the beginning of the month** instead of in two wires throughout the month.

Renovation needs are still needed. We thank the Lord the rainy season has begun! Last year at this time we were dealing with drought. But, our roof has been leaking due to the heavy rains. Please be in prayer for these continued 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