

RAINING HOPE

"And he will send showers of rain

Inside this edition:

COVID-19 update

Prayer & Updates

Cultural Differences

Stateside:

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A Message of Thanks from Raining Hope

Calvary Greetings everyone. This is Pastor Godfrey, Raining Hope, Uganda. We are so thankful to you all our friends and partners and our sponsors.

Thank you for all you are doing to reach out to us in such a time as this. We know very well that right now the world is in a lockdown because of the effects of the corona virus. And yet, even amidst all the circumstances, you have remained faithful and loving and caring and so supportive to us. This reminds me of the words by the apostle Paul spoken to the churches in Corinth in the second letter

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own." 2 Corinthians 8:2-3

I know how much right now you are sacrificing and doing everything possible to meet our needs as you support us in different ways. Via financial, even through prayer, morally, thank you so much for encouraging us in such a big way. We know that it is a trying moment for the world but you've really overlooked your needs and stretched further to stand with us and support us. Thank you so much and we love you and we shall continue to pray for you. Just know that we always hold you with the highest regard. Thank you for trusting our Mama Kisakye for the work she is doing in our lives. We pray that one day we shall have victory over the corona virus and all its effects. Thank you so much and we are praying for you that we will trust in God that all will be well. We love you and we bless the name of the Lord for you. Thank you so much.

Amen
Pastor Godfrey

COVID-19 CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

As a reminder, here are differences in culture that make this shutdown critical.

- 1) The Ugandan culture survives and thrives on meeting together
- 2) Their economy doesn't favor isolation
- 3) The majority of people depend on **daily income to survive**. The people in the market who sell food use their income for the day to pay for food that night for their families. They live hand to mouth.
- 4) The food that the Ugandans eat daily is fresh. Staples are beans, rice and posho (wheat flour). We purchase these three items one month at a time to last 30 days. Meat is always fresh not frozen or processed. Vegetables are sold fresh daily. **They do not have the ability or funds to stock up for a long period of time. Hoarding is a foreign concept to them.**
- 5) **The longer the lockdown stays in place, there is a danger the death toll from starvation will outnumber deaths due to COVID-19.**
- 6) The people are not equipped to sustain life in this condition for more than a month. Some have even gone so far as thinking it is a conspiracy to kill them by hunger.

UPDATE

In the last newsletter, the Ugandan Government reported there are as many as 10 million people in Uganda who live from hand to mouth. We asked you to pray for families who will not be able to provide for their families. **Godfrey said that people are starving.**

The Ugandan government is going to supply food for 1,500,000 families. There were recent reports that when some of these people received their food, their bags were filled with bad beans and rocks to weigh the bags down. Some who posted on Facebook were blaming the corrupt government and calling for retaliation. **BUT that was not the full truth.** I checked with Godfrey and he said the problem **was not the government** but **SUPPLIERS** who were **hired to distribute the food**. The President of Uganda is working with the Prime Minister to sort out the issue. Those suppliers will be identified and held accountable. The government is working to replace the bad food that was wrongly distributed.

It brought to mind our story in our Special Edition February newsletter of **the man who stole our bicycle and wheelbarrow**. *"The part of the story that amazed me was not about our loss of needed property. The local police station is meant to be a 48 hour holding place. They do not provide any food for those arrested. Apparently, no one in his family would bring food to him. They called Godfrey to ask if we would bring this man a meal. What **GRACE** to provide meals to the man who stole from us. That is the **GRACE of God**, freely given, unearned and very undeserved. Pray for this young man that he would see that God's Grace is available to him just as we offered grace in the midst of being wronged."*

The situation in Africa is critical in ways that are hard to relate to. People are getting desperate. It is hard to imagine picking up food from any of the local food banks in America and finding bags filled with rocks & bad food. It is natural to react in anger and retaliation in the face of injustice. But our Raining Hope family reacted to the truth the same way they did with the man who stole from us. **They know the government is handling the injustice. Instead of feeding into the anger** of the situation, they are praying for the **grace of God over these suppliers** that they would see the need for Christ and be saved. The needs are overwhelming. We are praying that people would get the needed food.

Thanks to all of you, our Raining Hope family has food to eat. Godfrey has received calls from those who are looking for help. **Yet, he has had to turn them away which has been difficult for him.** The issue of starvation and hunger is a real problem and it is widespread. We are **extremely sensitive to the fact that things are difficult here in our own local communities**. Local food banks and church ministries are seeing a rise in people who need their services because of lost jobs. We are grateful for the sacrifices you make to not only help our Raining Hope family but also those in your own communities. We are praying for you. We appreciate your continued prayers for Raining Hope Ministries. They are impacting the surrounding community by bringing HOPE in the midst of panic, PEACE in the midst of chaos, HIS TRUTH in the midst of lies and fear. We are humbled by your support and encouragement. We love you and appreciate you. (Mama Kisakye)

COVID-19 PRAYER CONCERNS UPDATE - APRIL 23, 2020

1. **There are now 79 confirmed cases, 43 recoveries.** There are **no deaths**. Government has tightened policies
2. **There is still no public means of transportation** (including taxi's and boda boda's)
3. **Markets are closed (except for food)**. Other shops that sell clothing, supplies etc. are still closed. That includes our friends such as Rita, Faith & Irene at Source Cafe. This will be a huge loss of daily income that has immediate consequences. Godfrey continued to express that for shop owners this is a huge problem. People don't have savings they depend on. They depend on daily income. There is now a concern people will resort to stealing.
4. **The stay at home quarantine** has been **extended to May 4th**.
5. **Public transportation is still shut down**. Private vehicles must have special permission to operate only to purchase food or get medical attention. Raining Hope has permission to use our vehicle.

COVID-19 PRAYER CONCERNS HEALTH / BUDGET

Godfrey is keeping our family in our compound to follow government orders. It is the same as our "shelter in place". They all understand the need to stay home and are all complying.

- 1) Please pray for those in our home that have had **other health issues**:

Henry - Malaria & typhoid - recovering
Maria & Irene have had stomach issues but recovering
Annet - stomach issues and now under treatment

- 2) The balance needed to complete buying food for **April is \$912. They are almost out of food.**

- 3) The monthly **regular budget is approximately \$1,700.** We will need to send resources to cover the May budget soon.

Prices are rising on all supplies especially food. The prices have been increasing by 50-70%.

The supplies that we bought at the beginning of the month are running low. Please pray as we want to make sure our Raining Hope family has enough to eat.

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!

Praise the Lord! Due to your above and beyond donations, enough was given to cover the **budget for February, March and a portion of April!** **They also were able to buy food for an Easter meal for the family.**

We received enough to **repair the van & buy new tires!**

School fee balance for 1st Term - \$1,432
We have received some to cover the fees for the first term. We are waiting for school to re-open to see what they are going to do regarding the time off for quarantine. The schools are trying to determine when to re-open and how that affects the upcoming second term.

Our Raining Hope Family expresses their deepest thanks for your continued support and encouragement.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

CHECKS: Mark your check with the area you would like the funds to go to such as SCHOOL FEES etc. or BUDGET and send to our stateside office. If multiple donations come in for a specific need, funds will be placed in the budget to cover the needs. If there is no designation it will go in budget to use at our discretion.

CREDIT CARD: You can also make credit card donations on our website - www.raininghope.org.

TEXT TO GIVE: If you would like to send a text to give to Raining Hope by credit card, just send a text to 844-544-7171 and text RAININGHOPE. Follow the prompts and you will receive a receipt! **Text to Give has no additional charges.**

If you have any questions about ways to give, please contact Carol John - 805-377-7387

All donations are tax deductible. Raining Hope Incorporated is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

IMPORTANT UPDATE;

Due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions and recent "shelter in place" orders in California, we are requesting checks be sent directly to our treasurer, Carol John to deposit. The mail sent to our office is hard to retrieve when the front office is not occupied. We may or may not have access to the office for the next few weeks. It is completely safe to send it to Carol John's address. She takes care of all our banking issues.

Carol John - 11832 Quince Mill Drive - North Potomac, MD 20878