

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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A Message from Raining Hope

For most of us it has been over two months since we entered into a lockdown situation. We are humbled that you have gone **above and beyond** to meet our basic needs. You have supported us financially so we have **food to eat**. You have **prayed for us which has given us strength**.

Godfrey said that people in Africa are starving. People who have food have resorted to eating one meal a day. This means only tea and porridge. The Ugandan government was able to take care of the issue of suppliers who were distributing bags filled with bad beans and rocks. People are slowly receiving food but it is not nearly enough. **They need our continued prayers.**

We are extremely sensitive to the fact that things are **difficult in our own local communities In the US**. 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.

Our regular monthly budget is approximately \$1,700. It is much higher now as food prices have skyrocketed. As an example, tomatoes that normally cost \$13 for the month are now over \$35 which is close to triple the normal cost. This has overtaken the numbers Godfrey originally reported. **Things are increasing daily and will continue to affect our overall budget.** Because of your prayers and support, we were able to send enough money to **cover the whole month of May**. This was a **huge answer to prayer**. Godfrey and the family are overwhelmed with the outpouring of support.

With the uncertainty of the coming months, we appreciate your continued prayers that our rising budget needs will be met.





RAINING HOPE RADIO MINISTRIES

Since Uganda has been in lockdown, our Raining Hope family has remained in the compound to follow the government guidelines. Our Raining Hope family is putting their faith and **TRUST in our God alone**. **Godfrey said with the pandemic being on a global level it is in need of divine attention.**

What has been a huge challenge is how to have church. We are blessed in America to have the ability to still experience church through online services. In Uganda, most people don't have smartphones to watch a service. Even with those who do, the data charges and taxes to use phones for a full length service are unaffordable for most especially during the pandemic.

Raining Hope Ministries has stayed **connected to church members mainly by making phone calls**. The church members have been so encouraged by the intentional, consistent contact by our Raining Hope family. We 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.

As the lockdown is extended, **more people in the country are loosing hope**. Godfrey said that in South Sudan there is a **high number of suicides** because people have no food. They don't see a solution. They are frustrated and tired. Raining Hope Ministries has found a way to **minister and proclaim the Word of God** to those who are in need of that **message of HOPE**.

The church recommended looking into broadcasting services on air since **most people have radios**. They contacted a church member who works at the local radio station. They decided to invest in a **Sunday program** to preach the Word of God. People in the church gave towards having Godfrey and Raining Hope Ministries on the air every Sunday! They have 40 minutes Sunday morning and 1 hour on Sunday nights. The cost normally is \$165 a month for one hour a week. But the favor of God rests on us and we have an **extra 40 minutes a week AND a reduced rate of \$135!**

The radio program was **meant to be temporary** because they thought the lockdown was only going to last a month. But something amazing has happened. Instead of Godfrey only preaching to our congregation of 200 on a Sunday, **the Word is being spread farther and wider** than anything they anticipated! A few local pastors have called Godfrey to thank him for the radio program that is so needed at such a time as this. Most churches have no way to have a radio program or reach their members with weekly teaching and preaching. These churches are **directing their church members to listen to our radio program**. Godfrey is receiving calls not only locally but as far as the radio station reaches. Some are healed, others have accepted Christ, and others are growing spiritually through the teaching.

The lockdown has affected everyone in the church and they all are struggling financially. They were going to have to suspend the radio ministry. **A donor who heard the story** of how this radio program is impacting the community for Christ, graciously made a donation towards keeping the program on the air for the next several months!

When I told Carol John the story of the **sudden impact** we are having with an **unexpected radio ministry** she made this comment:

"Sometimes in our modern world which includes the use of high tech video images, streaming live music or shows and viewing them on a smart phone, we can overlook the fact that **before our time, radio broadcasting was an extremely powerful and effective way to communicate to people around the world**. As we think about ways of sharing the gospel, radio - a simple voice without lights and pictures - remains a powerful, available and affordable means of communication. Today we find our world in crisis. And just as believers did after World War II, **Raining Hope Ministries in Uganda has the opportunity to reach out over radio waves now with the good news of Jesus Christ.**"

"Watch where God is working and join Him in His work." Henry Blackaby. With the uncertainty of when churches can again gather together, this is a powerful way to have no interruption in the spreading of the Gospel. Godfrey also takes with him Joan as the interpreter, Henry to play keyboards and Sylvia and Joan to sing. **Worship and the Word are bringing HOPE to a world that desperately needs Him.** Amen! We stand amazed!

With an overwhelmed heart, Mama Eydie Kisakye





FEEDING HUNGER WITH HOPE

As Godfrey and I have prayed over the many needs, our **first priority was to make sure the Raining Hope family stayed**

safe and healthy and has food. Thanks to our supporters, God is answering those prayers.

As our **surrounding community** struggles, we have prayed for direction as to what we could do to be the hands and feet of Jesus, all while in isolation.

The Ugandan government has a policy in place that you **can't help more than five families at one time.** Understandably, trying to help the masses could bring more trouble, chaos and riots if not handled correctly. **We have helped individual church families in our immediate area who needed assistance.** We haven't received any direction as a ministry to pursue providing food on a **larger scale.** Their government is doing their best to help the masses.

But Godfrey made a huge statement that confirmed the **direction we are pursuing to help the community at large.** He said, **"To have a massive food distribution will help some temporarily. But two weeks later when they run out of food, then what? HOPE IN GOD is paramount in uncertain times."** Raining Hope's call right now is to give the people HOPE that will help them COPE with the struggles, the loss, the hunger and the uncertainty. **What we are offering goes beyond food.** As people continue to struggle and give up, **Raining Hope is helping make a difference to countless individuals by "feeding" them HOPE.**

I saw a clip while watching "The Voice" this week on NBC. They were at the Regional Food Bank in Oklahoma. I noticed a quote on the wall, **"Fighting Hunger - Feeding Hope."** **To borrow their vision,** Raining Hope Ministries is fighting the issue of hunger by **FEEDING PEOPLE HOPE through the new and unexpected RADIO MINISTRY.** **We have the ability to help more through the radio than we could with limited funds for food.**

Here are just a few of the testimonies from listeners who have been strengthened through this program:

1. A young lady by the name of Lydia from Mayuge District (about 31 miles from Jinja) was listening to our radio program. She had left her husband to go back to her home village before the quarantine started here in Uganda. They had a sharp misunderstanding. She said when she listened to the teachings on forgiveness and repentance, she decided to call him, asked for forgiveness and they are planning to get together again soon after the quarantine is lifted.

RADIO TESTIMONIES (CONT.)

2. Some person called John B. was seeking a job. He had no way to feed his family. No one would give him a job as jobs are scarce. As he tuned on the radio and listened to us, we were praying and he believed God. A week later, he was called for a job. He can now take care of his family.

3. A pastor from Bukaya where we were living before told the radio worker who hosts us of how much the radio program has changed his family in a special way. He said the way Scripture is explained is just divine. The program has helped some of the people he is living with to get out of fear.

4. I met a friend today who appreciated the work we do on the radio. He said that it gave him confidence again to trust God. He had many questions as to why God would allow this to happen to his people. But through the program he has realized that God's love is real even in this situation.

5. Andrew from Paradise Hotel told Godfrey that his teaching has been helping clear up the ongoing false prophecy circulating about end times.

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**

COVID-19 PRAYER CONCERNS UPDATE - MAY 19, 2020

1. **There are now 248 confirmed cases, 63 recoveries.** There are **no deaths**. Of confirmed cases, 75% are non-Ugandans.
2. **There is still no public means of transportation** (including taxi's and boda boda's)
3. **Markets are still 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.
4. **The stay at home quarantine has been extended to June 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.
6. **Curfew has been extended to June 11th.** Curfew is no movement on the streets from 7 pm to 6:30 am the next day. Most likely it will be extended past that.
8. **No one is allowed in public without masks** or they will be arrested. The government is going to provide **reusable face masks**. After the mass distribution of the masks lockdown will be eased slowly. If the masks are not ready the lockdown may be extended.
9. **The first phase of opening will NOT include** bars, arcades, shopping malls, church gatherings, and districts on the borders of other countries.

“But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.” John 6:27

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.

GOD IS IN CONTROL

A friend of mine posted this on his Facebook page. I thought it was appropriate and encouraging:

"The apostle Paul wrote while he was in chains in prison that he had found "Joy in all things." We serve a Master that is bigger than this broken world, and this is where our security needs to be. Ministry changes, the world shifts, jobs and lives are lost, we need to remember that in this world these things are normal. It's a good thing we're not of this world; we're created for something bigger. The hard times come and go; God is eternal." Dj Scheutze: