

RAINING HOPE

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

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VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER!

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BE KIND THIS CHRISTMAS

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To our dear Sponsors and Partners,

I thank God for his grace and mercy that He continues to lavish upon us everyday. I am grateful to God for keeping you whole even in such difficult times that we live in as a world. This Christmas, I am reminded of the hope that is in Christ Jesus' birth. I always liken the **life without hope in Christ** to a Christmas chicken. In Uganda, people buy chicken prior to Christmas so that on Christmas day they will prepare one for a meal. Chicken meat in Uganda is what makes the party what it is! Ha ha!! Well, that chicken is well fed, taken care of and monitored but only to be slaughtered on Christmas. The poor chicken has no hope of rescue! **That is how we lived before knowing Christ.** Through the birth of Christ, we no longer live like Christmas chicken **we have hope here and here after.**

I pray that this Christmas will fill you with hope and hope eternal.

May God satisfy you with good things as you celebrate hope with your families this Christmas. May God comfort those who mourn and heal the sick.

You are all loved and honored! Merry Christmas!

Godfrey & the Raining Hope Family





RAINING HOPE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER DECEMBER 2022

The last three years we have not been able to host the Annual Tamale Fundraiser for family reasons in 2019 and COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 & 2021. **Unfortunately**, we again are not able to **host the Annual Tamale Fundraiser in person this year**. Our event normally includes a time of fellowship, worship and open house to pick up tamales and browse the Christmas craft boutique. Each year, Sylvia Hernandez has lovingly prepared the delicious tamales we all have come to love! The high cost of meat and supplies also went into this decision.

This year we are hosting another VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER that will run **through the entire month of December!** The fundraiser will raise the much needed funds for the special projects in this newsletter and the anticipated **first term of school for 2023**. Last year our virtual fundraiser was a huge success thanks to all of you!

We appreciate your prayers this month for our **Virtual Fundraiser** "less the tamales"! We can't express enough how grateful we are each year to all our sponsors and supporters who continue to pray and sacrificially support the Raining Hope family. We are deeply honored by your love and support. God has used each one of you to **make a tremendous difference in the lives of these precious individuals**. Thank you for blessing us this Christmas with your love, support and encouragement. It means the world to our Raining Hope family! You are deeply loved!

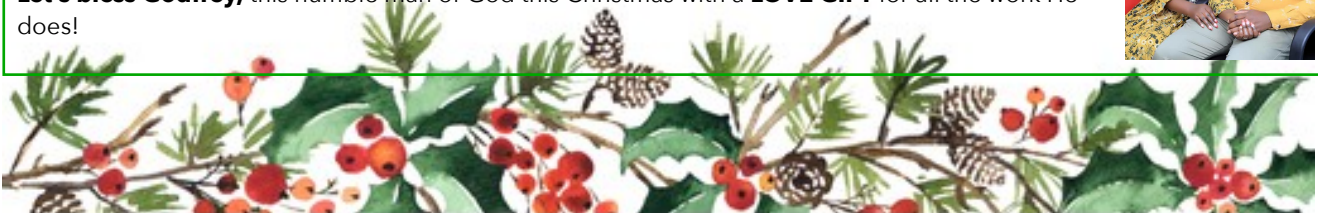
CHRISTMAS SURPRISE FOR GODFREY



Godfrey has done so much for the Raining Hope family. He continues to serve as an excellent manager of the ministry, a role model as a father to the whole Raining Hope family as well as to his own children, an excellent husband to Irene and a pastor who lovingly leads. **We want to show our appreciation for his servant heart.**

For awhile now, his computer has been a challenge. He continues to have it repaired but it is just delaying the inevitable. Godfrey sacrifices to make sure the needs of the family are first met. The last three years we have been dealing with a **budget that increases every month due to COVID lockdowns and food prices doubling**. So as part of our **VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER** I would love to raise the funds to **purchase Godfrey a new computer**. He has not asked for this so I want it to be a Christmas surprise. The cost is around **\$650-\$700**. It is best to raise the money and let him buy a new one there. I know we can get better deals here but since I am not traveling to Uganda this New Year's Eve and shipping costs would be too high, it is best to allow him to purchase it there. Our work together is dependent upon a working computer.

Let's bless Godfrey, this humble man of God this Christmas with a **LOVE GIFT** for all the work He does!





FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT & CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MEAL

For the past seven years, we have purchased one main Christmas gift for the whole family. Our children live together as a family. This is different from other organizations whose children don't live together under one roof.

As a family, Godfrey said this year the gift that would mean the most would be **much needed mattresses for each family member.**

The cost : \$978 for mattresses and transporting to the house. (\$51 per Raining Hope family member)
Annual Christmas/New Year's Meal & Party for the family: \$137

HELPING FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS



RAINING HOPE would like to bless 20 families with food this Christmas. This will be for the families of our children and a few in our community. Many families have struggled during the pandemic. We would provide **food baskets** of rice, beef, cooking oil, sugar, bread, soap, salt & fuel. We also want to provide enough to carry them through the New Year.

The cost: \$832 or \$42 per family.

#GIVINGTUESDAY 2022

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 was #GivingTuesday2022, a global day dedicated to giving back. Charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. Facebook keeps the "GivingTuesday fundraiser open until December 13th. **We thank those who gave on Facebook and also shared the page with their friends.** The funds are sent to us after the campaign is done within 30-60 days.

We would love if you would offer up the gift of your prayers for our children as part of GivingTuesday2022!



Year End Audit & Tax Returns (In Uganda)

Every organization in Uganda is required to pay for **Auditing & Filing Tax Returns**. Godfrey was reminded of this by the Uganda Revenue Authority because we were going to be penalized for a late return. He was able to receive an extension that needs to be paid before the end of December. It is for both **2021 & 2022** since COVID19 lockdown **delayed all payments**.

TOTAL COST due by end of December 2022: \$822



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You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Thanks so much for those who support us on **Amazon Smile !** For those that may not know, if you shop on Amazon Smile you can support us as one of the charities !

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, **the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.**

Start at smile.amazon.com to **support Raining Hope Incorporated**. It will give you an option to look up your charity. Just type in **"Raining Hope Incorporated"** and our organization **in Ventura** will pop up! Each time you order, the children at Raining Hope will benefit! Isn't this exciting!!!!

For more questions about the AmazonSmile program you can go to <https://smile.amazon.com/about>. There is a full page of information about their program. This is another way the Lord is providing to meet the needs of the children!

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO RAINING HOPE

CHECKS: Mark your check with the area you would like the funds to go towards such as **CHRISTMAS GIFTS/ CHRISTMAS BASKETS** etc. or **BUDGET** and send to our stateside office or Carol John. If multiple donations come in for a designated need, excess funds will be placed in the budget to cover the overall needs. If there is no designation it will go into the budget to use at our discretion.

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

TEXT TO GIVE: You can send a text-to-give to Raining Hope by credit card by texting 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 - carol@raininghope.org

Checks/Mail can be sent directly to Carol John or to our Raining Hope offices in Ventura

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

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



INSPIRE KINDNESS THIS CHRISTMAS



Last year I found a song by the group Cain called **“Wonderful”** featuring Steven Curtis Chapman. It especially spoke to my heart as we prepared to gather together in person again with family and friends post-COVID.

The song reminds us that we have **so much to be thankful for.** *“But through the joy and laughter you can feel the sadness, ‘Cause this Christmas everyone’s not with us. It’s the time of year when happiness and cheer won’t be enough to get me through the night.”*

This time of year we want to **remember and honor those who are no longer with us.** For some it will be a difficult Christmas. I love the words in the song that bring **much needed HOPE to all:**

He is our *“Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God,
The Prince of Peace
Who’s strong enough to carry me **Immanuel**
God with us
The One who’s love will never end
Oh, Jesus can you make this season Wonderful.”*

I wanted to share the link once again to the song: **YouTube:**
https://youtu.be/z_71i-ui0_E
It is a song that continues to inspire me at Christmas.



POWER ACTS OF KINDNESS

The **acts of kindness** are endless! As part of our **VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER** we would love if we could all find ways to **think of others** this Christmas and **bless them with kindness!** You never know who is in need of a little extra love this season.

On my Facebook page I reposted a link from #GivingTuesday2022 that listed **50 Powerful Acts of Kindness.** Here is the link to their website:

<https://www.givingtuesday.org/blog/50-acts-of-kindness-for-givingtuesday/>

One of their ideas was “Organize a ‘baby shower’ (drive for diapers, baby supplies) for a local women’s shelter. A good friend of ours, Mandy Hyde works with the **Jr. League of Riverside** to raise funds throughout the year to provide diapers to those families in need in the community. Check it out at <https://www.juniorleaguerriverside.org/diaperbank>

You can also google **“Random Acts of Christmas Kindness”** and find tons of ideas of how to simply **be kind to others.** I found a cute “Garland of Good Deeds” booklet last year at the local Hallmark store. It encourages you to **“Inspire Christmas Kindness in kids** by building a paper chain with each completed good deed.” Here are some of the ideas:

“Have an attitude of gratitude! Write a heartfelt thank you note for a gift received.”

“Say thank you every chance you get...and let that person know why you are grateful.”

“Make Christmas cookies and deliver to a neighbor. (Include a nice note too!)”

“Be Christmas-y and crafty! Make something special for someone who means a lot!”

Let’s make this season **WONDERFUL to those around us** in the name of Jesus by finding ways to inspire kindness