

A U G U S T 2 0 1 6



“AND HE WILL SEND SHOWERS OF RAIN SO EVERY FIELD BECOMES A LUSH PASTURE.” ZECHARIAH 10:1



Christ in You - The Hope of Glory Raining Hope Ministries - Uganda

September 5-7, 2016 - Open Air Evangelism
Crusade
September 8-10, 2016 - Conference

This is a very strategic time for evangelism & missions in Uganda. Uganda is at the heart of missions in Eastern & Central Africa. As an organization, we not only center on the charity work but we are reaching the community for the gospel.

Our ministry at Raining Hope has been growing as we continue to reach out to the community. The children's love for serving God has increased. They are growing in their walk with God as they are entrusted with ministerial responsibilities each week. They are maturing in the Lord. During Sunday services, there is joy in the tent. Visitors have loved our messages which are rooted in the Word of God. Some Sundays there are so many visitors that pour in we have less seats and space. People love the ministry. - Godfrey

The upcoming Open Air Evangelism Crusade will be a time to reach the lost for Christ. It will also encourage believers in who we are in Christ and reflecting His glory as His witnesses. Pastor Godfrey, local pastors & our own students will lead in the crusade. Eydie will travel to Uganda August 31-September 12, 2016 to participate. She will lead the conference with Pastor Godfrey, September 8-10. It will be a time of follow-up and teaching on the theme of the Christ in Us - the Hope of Glory & the children being a Beacon of Hope to the world.

Eydie Miskel

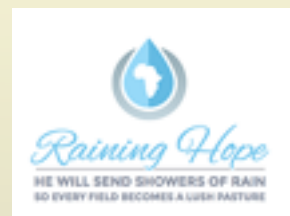
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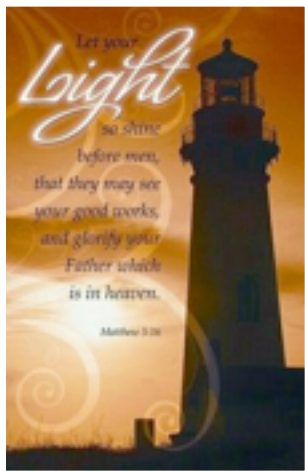
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Raining Hope is a 501 (c)(3)
non-profit corporation



New Beacon of Hope Sponsorship Program

Raining Hope currently has thirty two children we care for. Twenty seven of these children live under the same roof

at our home. Five others live with parents or guardians. All of the children in our home have individual sponsors. Instead of having multiple sponsors per child, we are **shifting from a one-to-one child sponsorship program to a monthly highlighted child model that we are launching as "Beacon of Hope Sponsorship."** Raining Hope has looked into other faith-based organizations who are successfully following this model. **Those who already sponsor a specific child will be able to continue with their individual sponsorship.**

This new direction in our sponsorship program has come after a season of listening to the Lord and the direction He wanted us to move. It has come after much prayer and seeing God's best for the children and their future. It came with a lot of input from the Uganda staff which takes into consideration cultural differences. The Raining Hope Board will continue to be obedient to listening to His voice and following the direction that He guides us in.

Because the majority of our children live together at our home, our goal is for you to get to know all of our children that make up our Raining Hope family. We have a wide range of ages, but most of our children are the equivalent of Jr. High and High School. We have watched these children grow up since Eydie's first mission's trip in 2006. **Each one of our children have powerful stories to tell.** In order to get to the heart of Raining Hope and our mission, this new model is the way you can be more acquainted with our children who are Raining Hope. **Each month, sponsors will receive an exclusive sponsor newsletter with the Beacon of Hope student.** We will include their unique story, photos & hopes & dreams of who they are becoming as followers of Christ.

In 2011 at the Lions International Convention, I was awarded a Presidential Medal by the International President, Sid Scruggs in honor of my 25 years of interpreting for the deaf for the convention. Last month, after being led to call our new sponsorship program, "Beacon of Hope," I realized that was the same theme that President Scruggs used for his year as President. I contacted President Scruggs and his wife Judy who are supporters of our children to let them know I was naming the program "Beacon of Hope." This was his response:

"The Lions of North Carolina formed a fellowship in my name called the Sid Scruggs Beacon of Hope Fellowship for campers for our camp for the blind. My life verse is Psalms 139:9-10, "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." A beacon from a lighthouse or a radio beacon has always been there to guide a sailor or aviator to a safe haven giving hope of a safe arrival. With the love of God as a beacon for these children we know they can be provide with safe passage in life. The phrase below the Beacon of Hope Fellowship plaque for me reads, "Walking beside those we serve". Sounds like what you are, and have been doing."

Sid Scruggs

Page 3 outlines some of the most frequently asked questions as we launch the new sponsorship program!



Beacon of Hope Sponsorship Questions

WHAT DOES MY MONEY PROVIDE?

All money given to our sponsorship program is put into a fund that allows Raining Hope to cover housing, food, clothing, medical care, school fees, supplies & uniforms & spiritual discipleship for all the children.

HOW LONG OF A COMMITMENT IS MY SPONSORSHIP?

We do not have an end date to your sponsorship donation. Your Raining Hope sponsorship will continue until you contact us. We understand that life has its seasons & circumstances change. If you are not able to financially continue your sponsorship on a monthly basis, we request you simply contact us to let us know.

CAN I WRITE A LETTER TO THE CHILDREN IN THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

Yes, with specific guidelines and frequency. For those who are individual sponsors, it will be required that you write a letter to your child when Eydie travels to Uganda (at least twice a year). We currently do not send letters any other time in the year. For those who are under our new **Beacon of Hope Sponsorship**, you may write letters that are addressed, "Dear Raining Hope Children," but not to any one individual child. We will give each child in the home a copy of your letter. We have found this to be the most effective & encouraging way to keep in touch with our children. You will receive a letter back that will be written by one of the children on behalf of all of them. Once you sign up to become a sponsor, you will receive more detailed information on guidelines for writing letters.

CAN I GIVE GIFTS TO MY SPONSORED CHILD?

If you would like to give a gift to your sponsored child or the home in general, we currently accept monetary gifts only that will be used at the discretion of the staff. Remember, our children live together as a family. They see and compare who receives letters and gifts and who doesn't. This is different from other organizations whose children don't live together. We can only give gifts when every child can receive one and the gifts need to be equal. Our Uganda staff has requested that specific gifts not be sent. Eydie will notify sponsors that donations are needed to buy gifts for all the children. Please wait until this time to give designated offerings for the children. Eydie works closely with the Ugandan staff and knows best what is needed.

Your gifts and letters are deeply appreciated. Our goal is to keep the unity of the family in the home. Your words of encouragement as they continue to advance in their education and goals is what they need the most to give them hope.

IS RAINING HOPE AN ORPHANAGE?

We have never been categorized as an orphanage. We have been registered as Raining Hope Children's Home since 2009. In 2015, we officially changed our registration in Uganda to Raining Hope Ministries to encompass the growth in spiritual discipleship & reaching out to the community. The definition of an orphanage is "a place where children whose parents have died can live and be cared for: a home for orphans." (Webster's Dictionary). Most of our children still have a parent or guardian in their lives. We only have a few who no longer have both parents. Raining Hope also encourages the truth that none of our children are orphans because we are a part of the family of God. Many parents and guardians can not care for their children. By allowing them to be a part of a home such as ours, they are giving them the chance to succeed in the future.

We are committed to these thirty two children that we have watched grow up over the past nine years. The cost of schooling in Uganda increases as students continue from primary to secondary school. Post-secondary education costs will greatly increase our school fee budget. Raining Hope is committed to helping our students through university or vocational school and then launching them in their new careers. Most organizations have to send students out of their programs once they reach 18 years old. **We have been given special permission to keep our children under this special program.**

We are not currently accepting any new children in the program due to the increasing costs of being committed to post secondary school education. We have to get special permission in order to add any children under the new strict guidelines we operate under in Uganda as an organization.

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE SPONSOR?

You can go online to our website to our sponsorship information and give a monthly donation of \$30 per month or give it all at once as a yearly donation of \$360 for one sponsorship. If you prefer, you may mail a check to us at: Raining Hope Inc. c/o Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road #206, Ventura, CA 93003.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

Last month we prioritized our financial needs. Godfrey came to the conclusion that the monthly budget expenses & school fees are our first priority. **Our prayer is we can raise the approximate \$17,000 needed for sound equipment and renovations so we can concentrate monthly on our regular budget expenses. Please join us in prayer.** The following list is according to current priority in utilizing our incoming funds.

- 1. MONTHLY EXPENSES - Each month our budget is approximately \$1500.** This covers food, health bills (medicines, hospital visits), utility (water, electricity), van (petro & maintenance), salaries, clothes, firewood to cook with, toiletries, miscellaneous. Our goal is to be able to send this amount at the beginning of each month. Right now we send it in two wires throughout the month as donations come in.
- 2. SCHOOL FEES -** This is paid three times a year as they have three terms. The first term is always the highest because of uniforms & new school year requirements. It decreases the second & third term. Because we have students beginning their advance schooling, we will be in need of scholarships to help with the rising costs of school fees.
- 3. SOUND EQUIPMENT -** Raining Hope is moving to the next level of not just taking care of physical needs like other organizations. **We are also responding to the urgency of reaching out to as many as possible in our lost world with the gospel of Christ.** We want

to help meet their spiritual needs. We thank God that over time, we have seen our children grow in their relationship with God and their testimonies are powerful. They have become an effective worship & evangelical team, reaching out to the communities in Uganda. There are so many others out there that need to hear the gospel of Christ. He is using our children to further His Kingdom. The sound equipment/evangelistic need is: **100 Chairs - \$880 / Sound Equipment - \$3175 (amplifier, mixer, speakers, generator, wires, cords) Drum set - \$880 / Podium - \$171 Total - \$5106**

4. RENOVATIONS listed by priority

- A. Septic Tank -- \$2,135 -** Our neighbor informed me that they will be blocking the septic tank we are using now because it is in the land which they want to develop. They will be constructing their house in December which means closing the current septic tank down.
- B. Roofing the Main House - \$4,974** (The roof has begun leaking more. We have had the roof inspected by a company sent over from the hotel. They can work in phases until enough funding comes in. We want to begin with the area that is most damaged.)
- C. Electric repairs in the main house - \$366 -** To make the inside of the main house safe we need to fix loose wiring & exposed electrical switches.
- D. Plumbing for the main house & remaining in the boy's quarters - \$1,318**
- E. Rain water harvest to reduce on our water bill - \$1,068**
- F. Painting the boy's quarters - \$1,026**
- G. Painting the Main House - (working on an estimate)**

Total \$10,887

5. New TV - approximately \$400.

After the theft of the house a couple of months ago, the only large item taken was our TV. Godfrey uses it also as a teaching tool with the DVD player for Bible studies.

6. Please pray for Eydie who will be traveling to Uganda, August 31-September 12, 2016.

The approximate needs for the trip are **\$1,800-\$2,000**. The airfare is only \$1,050 which is a huge blessing. She will be traveling first to Maryland so the airfare is roundtrip from Washington DC. The hotel costs will be about \$450. Additional cost is for transportation costs and food.

Eydie will be traveling to Maryland August 24th for a three-day workshop before heading to Uganda. Because of the stopover, she will be extremely limited with checked luggage. She will not be able to take three bags from LAX to Washington DC.

Because of the luggage limitation & the new sponsorship program, we request that if you would like to bless the children, **monetary gifts only be given.** We would love to buy a new TV for the children that they would all benefit from. Eydie can also buy gifts in Uganda for the children which also helps the local economy.

Please contact Carol John if you would like to help! We thank you in advance for your support!

Donations can be made by sending a check to our stateside office, Raining Hope Incorporated - 3451 Foothill Road, #206 - Ventura, CA 93003 or to 8823 Denver Street, Ventura, CA 93004.

You can also make credit card donations on our website www.raininghope.org
All donations are tax deductible
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