

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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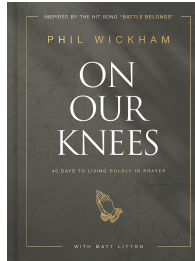
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Call to Prayer - On Our Knees

Last month I mentioned a wonderful devotional called **“On Our Knees: 40 Days to Living Boldly in Prayer.”** by Phil Wickham. (Highly recommend!)

In the forward of the book, Phil Wickham talks about how this book on prayer began with a song he wrote called, **“Battle Belongs”** <https://youtu.be/qtvQNzPHn-w> “The words of the song began from a simple phrase that caught our attention about prayer: **‘fighting on our knees’**”. I was excited to start the devotional that **“captured the mix of commitment and surrender that goes into praying.”**

Prayer is the foundation of what we do at Raining Hope. We have seen Him do what only He can do. I prepare to leave for Uganda on July 25th. You are always an important part of my journey when I travel to Uganda. Your prayers and support are such an encouragement. I am asking you to join me on my journey in a special **“Call to Prayer - On Our Knees”**.

We have had to make decisions based on the **priority of the compliance issues**. We ask you **prayerfully read this edition** as you see how He has already answered prayers through so many of you that have helped us stay opened.

Will you join me this week as we “fight on our knees” and watch God do what only He can do?! Please pray with us that **we will receive the necessary funds** for compliance, send-off celebration, school fees balance and my trip. Pray for me as **I prepare to share** in the send-off, Introduction and wedding of Hilary & Florence.

If you have any questions regarding how to help with a donation, please contact Carol John with the information to the left of this page. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, love & support!

Trusting God Alone,
Mama Eydie Kisakye



SEND OFF CELEBRATION

On **July 29, 2023**, we are having a formal **“Send Off Celebration”** for our five students who graduated and were resettled into their own places. We are required to

have a formal ceremony as an organization. We joyfully will celebrate **Joan, Jesca, Hillary, Sylvia and Vivian!**



Joan

The day will include parents or relatives of each of our students. We invite local and city leaders to come grace the occasion. Raining Hope will provide a feast for all who attend. We will present each of the five with a graduation gift.



Jesca

The program will include speeches from each student, two representatives from each family, two local leaders, and comments from Godfrey and Mama Eydie Kisakye . Godfrey will also have a time to preach a special message. Mama Eydie will give the official send-off word of encouragement.



Sylvia



Hillary



Vivian

BUDGET FOR SEND OFF CELEBRATION

Please pray for the necessary funds for the event. The event is being planned for **approximately 100 people.**

Food & Drinks : \$635

Decorations: \$82

Video/Photographer to document event: \$82

Cooks: \$55

Firewood for cooking: \$27

Security: \$14

Invitation Cards: \$41

Total: \$936

Wired \$100

Balance Needed: \$836

We are also working on purchasing gifts for each student.

VIDEO MESSAGES

Joan, Jesca, Hillary, Sylvia & Vivian have each made a **thank you video** to express their heartfelt gratitude for the support and encouragement you have given them over all these years.

Each video will be posted on our website this week. You will find them at www.raininghope.org

Godfrey also has a video greeting that will be posted as a thank you to all sponsors and supporters.

If you would like to send an email greeting to any of these five students for their accomplishments, please send it to signinghands49@yahoo.com. Please keep the greeting to only one page. It would help to **have the greetings before I leave on July 25th.** I will hopefully be able to run off any received after I arrive in Uganda. However, I arrive only 2 days before the send-off. They will love to receive a word of encouragement from sponsors & supporters.

A Background of the Introduction Ceremony

A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IN UGANDA: Culturally, before one can be married in the church the consent of the parents is a prerequisite. The idea of a dowry is still in practice in Uganda even though there is a bill on the floor of the parliament to end the giving of dowries.

An INTRODUCTION CEREMONY is when the woman is given away for marriage by her parents. A church cannot wed a woman without the “give away consent” in form of a letter from the parents. Before the Introduction, conditions are set by the parents which then make up the “dowry”. It is similar to a contract negotiation. The actual Introduction ceremony is when the woman officially introduces the boyfriend to family and friends and the dowry is presented. This is when she is officially given away.

The INTRODUCTION is held with high regard because it is the way a man honors the parents of the wife he is taking. Most of the time the dowry items have cultural meaning to respect the time the mother spent nursing the daughter from infancy to prepare her for marriage and the father for protecting and educating her. The gifts are significant and communicate the message of replacement as the woman has been a help to the family. The items of the dowry and introduction budget all have meaning culturally and are meant to honor the woman’s family, respect the bride and to honor the institution of marriage.

THE INTRODUCTION CEREMONY for Hilary & Florence will be Saturday, August 5, 2023. After the introduction, the family of Florence now officially permits Hilary to wed Florence by signing the consent letter that Hilary hands over to the pastor who will officiate the wedding. Without that letter, their marriage is null and void and not officially recognized. It is similar to a Marriage Certificate in the US, but this one is from the parents of the woman instead of a formal document required by the state. Culturally, the Introduction Ceremony is smaller than the wedding and involves more of the immediate family of both sides.

The WEDDING CEREMONY will be Saturday, August 12, 2023. This involves more family and friends. These two ceremonies normally can be months apart. But Hilary and Florence wanted Mama Eydie to be at both. Traveling to Uganda twice this year would have been difficult. So they put the two ceremonies one weekend apart.



Hilary & Florence have budgets that have been created for the Introduction (including the dowry) and the Wedding. Culturally, they turn to family and friends to help fund both ceremonies. Previously, I mentioned that we would publish the budgets for both ceremonies and help raise what would be needed.

But due to the crisis of compliance and fighting to stay opened, we took a look at the reality of raising these funds. This is the first wedding and introduction that Raining Hope will be hosting. We realized that with many other weddings to follow in the future, the responsibility of funding those events belong to their family and friends. We have talked to Hilary & Florence and they are in agreement.

As the Raining Hope family, we still want to bless them with a wedding gift to help them start off their life as a couple. If you want to give a **love offering to the couple**, just mark your donation, **“Hilary & Florence”**. I will take the offering with me and present it to them. I will not be able to take any physical gifts as I am limited with luggage space. If you want to **email a wedding greeting, you can send it to signinghands49@yahoo.com**. I will make sure they receive your wedding congratulations!

CONTINUED LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE

We wanted to update you on the continuing process of **compliance to stay opened**. Godfrey has been tirelessly working on fixing things at the home with what money we have sent so far.

He said that **time is running short** to accomplish everything needed **for us to continue to operate**. On July 12th, the committee requested to come back to the home on July 15th for another inspection. We have been able to start the painting of the house but have a lot more to finish. We especially need the broken locks fixed. This second inspection is crucial to have a favorable report in order to stay opened.

Here is a continuing list of what the officials are requiring us to do as prerequisites before we are permitted to operate. These following items need to be completed immediately.

- 8). **Painting the house regularly** (This includes the perimeter wall & varnishing doors and windows) This is an immediate need as they wanted us to start painting the outside of the house and the perimeter wall now.

The approximate cost to start is \$1,438

- 9). New towels for each person - \$260
- 10). Curtain Sheers - \$810
- 11) Door Locks - \$493
- 12). Window Glass Locks - \$242
- 13). Small Window Curtains- \$310
- 14). Fixing Sign Post (Raining Hope) - \$82
- 15) Cement/Sand to fix exterior wall posts - \$370

Grand Total : \$4005

Not an immediate need but are a requirement:

15). **Health Needs:**

- a). **A separate room is needed as a nursing station.** Currently the hospital bed we have for emergencies is in the main office.
- b). A **live-in nurse** or at least living close by to respond to any health emergencies.
- c). A **visiting doctor** who makes regular visits and signs in each time he visits.

16). **Capacity to respond to emergencies:**

- a). **A new home van** - Godfrey has a car but we sold the other van because it was costing us more in repairs. They are requiring another vehicle in case of emergencies. If Godfrey is not home, we have to have an alternate form of transportation in case of emergency. (We have about \$2,000 saved towards the new van)

17). **Paving or putting tarmac down on the compound** (currently dirt and grass)

18). **Providing new clothing, sandals & shoes** regularly

Please join us in prayer this week as the need is urgent in order to stay opened.



Painting Started



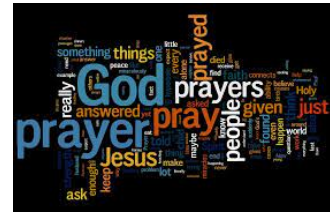
Perimeter Wall



Missing Door Locks

On Our Knees - Bold Praying

1. **School Fees** - Balance currently due - **\$2894**
2. **Send-Off/Graduation Celebration** for Joan, Jesca, Hillary, Sylvia and Vivian - **July 29, 2023 - \$936 (received \$100 - Balance \$836)**
3. **The Introduction Ceremony** for Hilary & Florence - **August 5, 2023.**
4. **The Wedding** for Hilary & Florence - **August 12, 2023.**
5. **Mama Eydie's Travel to Uganda - July 25, 2023-August 15, 2023.** Cost of airfare & hotel will be approximately **\$2,300.**
6. **Monthly Budget** - In May our monthly budget increased 30% due to unexpected medical needs. June it returned to a little over the average of \$2,687. We were not able to send all of the budget for a second straight month. A few large gifts that are given at the beginning or end of the year, have helped us have funds on hand to send the full budget at the beginning of each month. **Please be in prayer as those funds are running low and monthly budget needs are increasing.**
7. **Repairing the Wall** - We need to repair the back wall that was damaged from recent storms which includes the materials (stones, iron bars, cement, sand etc.), transport and labor. We have to repair the part of the wall that is damaged before it completely caves in. Not only will it leave our compound vulnerable as an access to thieves, it could fall on individuals causing injury. **Currently the cost is \$1,681.**



UPDATED WAYS TO MAKE A DONATION

CHECKS: Please mark your check with the area you would like the funds to go to such as **SCHOOL FEES, WALL, CELEBRATIONS, etc.** or **BUDGET**. 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.

Checks can be sent directly to our Treasurer, Carol John at 11832 Quince Mill Drive, North Potomac, MD 20878 or to our Raining Hope offices c/o Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road #206, Ventura, CA 93003.

***CREDIT CARD:** On our website www.raininghope.org choose DONATE. Follow the prompts.

***TEXT-TO-GIVE:** On your phone send a text to 844-544-7171 and text the phrase RAININGHOPE. Follow the prompts to give by credit card.



NEW! *QR CODE: Scan this QR code. Follow the prompts to give by credit card.



NEW! ZELLE: If your bank uses Zelle for money transfers you may send money instantly to Raining Hope.

If you have any questions about ways to give, please contact Carol John - carol@raininghope.org. All donations are tax deductible. Raining Hope Incorporated is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

Note:

* These methods of donating require a credit card. Raining Hope pays 2.5% to 3% on these gifts. There is an option for the donor to pay all or some of the credit card fees.