

# RAINING HOPE

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

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To our dear Sponsors and Partners,

Special greetings to you all our dear friends, sponsors and partners. As we come to the close of the year 2023, I would like to thank you all for standing with Raining Hope Ministries over all these years. We have seen God's grace and love through your kindness and support towards Raining Hope. We cannot thank you enough for all your love and support.

As we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remember and celebrate God's grace, peace and love that came down through the Lord Jesus. It is with this very grace, love and peace that I pray for you all and your families. I pray for comfort for those who mourn and are ailing. I also praise God together with those who have testimonies of His goodness.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and blessed 2024 of our Lord.

We love you and treasure you all!

Blessings and peace.

Godfrey & the Raining Hope Family





## RAINING HOPE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER DECEMBER & JANUARY 2023/2024

This year we are hosting another **VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER** that will run **through the entire month of December and January!** The fundraiser will raise the much needed funds for the special projects in this newsletter and the anticipated **first term of school for 2024.** 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 know you have your own needs for your own families. 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!

Eydie is available to come to your church, clubs or ministries to speak and share about all that God is doing in and through our Raining Hope family. Please contact Eydie if you would like more information about hosting a fundraising event or having her come to speak. Contact Carol John if you have any questions regarding how to give.

### BUDGET

**BUDGET:** Pray for our **monthly budget needs.** For the **month of November & December** we were **not able to send the full budget** at the beginning of the month. Our monthly budget averages \$2,600. November we did not send the completed budget. This month of December, **we only were able to send half of what was needed.**

Pray for the remaining budget needs for December to cover regular operating costs. Godfrey has been making due by decreasing certain costs mainly in the area of food. Thank you for all who are monthly sponsors of the ministry. It has been a challenge with the loss this year of some larger donations. We appreciate your prayers as we trust God to do what only He can do.





## FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT & CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MEAL

**For the past eight years, we have purchased one main Christmas gift for the whole family.** Our students 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 a **much needed set of couches for the living area. With compliance issues this is actually a requirement.** When I was there I saw how much the couches have deteriorated.

**The cost : \$1,123** for a set of couches and transporting to the house. **(\$56 per Raining Hope family member)** **We don't need to purchase the couch by Christmas.** We can continue raising funds into the New Year.

We also would like to provide a Christmas AND New Year's Meal for the Raining Hope family. Even our students who have graduated will come back and join with the family to celebrate the season and the ringing in of the New Year.

**Annual Christmas & New Year's Meal & Party for the family: \$219.**

## HELPING FAMILIES WITH FOOD THIS CHRISTMAS



**RAINING HOPE would like to bless 25 families with food this Christmas!** This will be for the families of our children and a few in our community. Many families have struggled this year with the rising cost of food and supplies. We would provide **food baskets** of rice, beef, cooking oil, sugar, bread, butter, soap, salt & fuel. We also want to provide enough to carry them through the New Year. This includes the families of our students who have graduated as they as still an active part of our ministry.

**The cost: \$838 or \$34 per family.** If you would like to sponsor a family or give a designated amount, please contact Carol John or Mama Eydie.



## Year End Audit & Tax Returns (In Uganda)

Every organization in Uganda is required to pay for **Auditing & Filing Tax Returns.**

**TOTAL COST due by end of December 2023: \$810. (We already sent #481. Balance is \$330)**



## In-depth Praise Season 2

As we mark the end of this year, Raining Hope organized an In-Depth Praise service on December 10, 2023. This was the second annual event! They invited other ministries to join them to wind up the year in joyful praise unto our God. The event was a huge success! It was a great time of outreach for the community as well.



We continue to thank God for the radio ministry and how God is using it to reach out to many people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have heard many testimony about God's grace to heal them, lift them up and change them through our Radio Ministry. The messages on the radio have helped people grow in their walk with Christ. We have had testimony after testimony of those who have given their lives to Christ & how it has changed the life of so many others. Please

keep our radio ministry in your prayers because the monthly cost for the radio ministry has increased from \$135 a month to \$160. We have had a few sponsors who gave directly to fund the radio ministry. The past two months we have not been able to send the full budget at the beginning of the month. This has affected the radio ministry as well. We are behind with covering the monthly cost and may have to stop with the Sunday radio programming. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

## 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.rainingshope.org](http://www.rainingshope.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@rainingshope.org](mailto:carol@rainingshope.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



Each Christmas this song by the group Cain called **“Wonderful”** featuring Steven Curtis Chapman truly ministers to my heart.

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. Some have recently lost loved ones. Others are struggling with illness, caregiving challenges or other struggles. 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](https://youtu.be/z_71i-ui0_E)**

It is a song that continues to inspire me at Christmas. You never know when a word of kindness from you is just what someone may need this 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.

We are thankful for everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday 2023. We appreciate your gifts given through Facebook as part of the campaign. Last year we found this website that gave ideas on ways to bless others. Here is the link to that website:

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

Some of the ideas on that list: 1. Write a letter by hand to someone who’s made a difference in your life. 2. Write to someone you haven’t spoken to in awhile. 3. Pick up trash in your neighborhood with a group of friends.

4. “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 out their website 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 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!