

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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OUR HEARTS AT RAINING HOPE



Dear Friends,

Since the beginning of the recent events regarding racial injustice, I have felt a sense of urgency to write to you and share my heart. I started a process of listening which includes reading, researching, thinking, watching, grieving, praying and waiting for insight and revelation. I soon understood that urgency did not require speed, it required thoroughness.

Raining Hope is a ministry of Christ-like compassion, care and love to Ugandan students in the Raining Hope family and their local community. Yes, black lives do matter.

Our donors sacrifice their treasures to care for the health, housing, food and education for students they have never met in a land most of them have never visited. I know they will never rest under the shade of trees they provided to be planted in the yard in Uganda or drink the milk from our cows. Our donors believe that black lives do matter.

Within America there remains systematic discriminatory racism among institutions, policies, laws and behaviors. This should not be. The time for significant change is at hand.

Carol John’s cousin addressed this issue well this week in her newsletter:

As an organization we typically are not a part of political discussions but the call for deep change within the very bones of our society is one to which we all must respond.

Margaret Jankowski, Founder of “The Sewing Machine Project”

So what do we do? My first response has been prayer. In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gives us the example of how to pray. As I discussed the importance of **The Lord’s Prayer** with our treasurer, Carol John, she shared that when she prays “Thy will be done” she imagines living in God’s kingdom where the kingdom of this world has been defeated. She wrote out twenty-five elements of God’s Kingdom and created the above graphic to reflect her experience.

She first wrote out the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then she began listing other characteristics from Scripture: Faith, hope, justice, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation, rest, etc. and formed it into a heart. This is her personal response to what is needed in future attempts to **achieve racial justice**. These words will be at the center of Raining Hope’s heartbeat as we commit to **PRAYING** for God’s will to be established “on earth as it is in heaven,” at such a time as this.

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Our Hearts From Raining Hope

When I went on my first mission's trip to Uganda over 13 years ago, I did what I find myself doing today - listening, reading, researching, watching, thinking, praying and waiting for insight and revelation because going to Uganda didn't make sense. All I knew was God said GO.

As part of my research I found myself watching the movie, "Hotel Rwanda" which had a significant impact on me.

"In April of 1994, animosity between the two main ethnic groups in Rwanda (the Hutus and the Tutsis) erupted into a full-blown civil war. Hutu extremists set out to exterminate the Tutsi people in a brutal massacre. Ultimately, nearly one million Rwandans were killed.

When the genocide began, Paul Rusesabagina was the assistant manager of the Hotel des Milles Collines in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda. As the country dissolved into chaos, Paul used his resources and status at the hotel to save his family - as well as over 1200 Rwandan refugees."

There is one scene in particular that deeply affected me. A reporter had gone outside the compound of the hotel. He wasn't prepared for what he filmed. **This conversation broke my heart:**

Paul: "I am glad that you have shot this footage and that the world will see it. It is the only way we have a chance that people might intervene.

Reporter: "Yeah and if no one intervenes is it still a good thing to show?"

Paul: "How can they not intervene when they witness such atrocities?"

Reporter: "I think if people see this footage they'll say, 'Oh my, that's horrible,' and then go on eating their dinners."

In re-watching this movie this week, I realized that the reporter was being insensitive to Paul's disbelief that no one would intervene. But when I returned from Uganda in 2007, the film had impacted me differently. I was faced with the same question. **What will I do now that I am home?** Will I do something about it or just go back to life as I knew it before I left. I spent about a month in isolation, thinking, crying, praying and waiting.

Our former Director of Missions for the Gold Coast Baptist Association, Tim Logerquist was on that trip with us. He said to me, "It is obvious that God has a purpose for you here. I can see that you have so much going on in your head with all you have experienced. I am going to be praying for you that God begins to **NARROW** that vision so you know exactly what He wants you to do in Uganda."

That prayer has helped me the past 13 years as I listen, watch, pray and wait. God faithfully began **NARROWING** the vision and it continues to this day. The **NARROWING PROCESS** for Raining Hope's is based on the promise in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.**"

I believe that this part of my testimony is important to share at such a time as this. I am praying for that same **NARROWING** process. With all the input from social media and TV reports our heads and hearts are full. Change is long overdue. **We CAN'T go back to the way things have been.** The question we need to ask ourselves is, "What am I supposed to do? What am I able to do? God, please narrow my vision."

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OUR VISION FROM RAINING HOPE - PRAYER

In seeking to begin **NARROWING** the vision as to what Raining Hope is called to do right now, this much was clear:

“...And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” **Micah 6:8**

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests with this in mind; be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” **Ephesians 6:18**

“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.” **2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT**

“The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” **Luke 10:27 NLT**

- We will **PRAY**
- We will **HUMBLE OURSELVES**
- We will **ACT JUSTLY**
- We will **SEEK HIM**
- We will **LOVE GOD**
- We will **LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR**
- We will **LISTEN**
- We will **ACT**
- We will **SUPPORT & ENCOURAGE**
- We will **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY**
- We **WILL ...**

This conversation will be ongoing. The vision will continue to narrow and change. As we continue to update on COVID-19 in a separate edition, we will also include insights to our call to prayer for **racial reconciliation**.

It would be an honor if you would join us in prayer as we seek to be a part of the solution.

In the next edition you will see how God is using **Godfrey powerfully** through the radio program to address these issues.

WE WILL...
I WILL ...
Amen and Amen

RESOURCES

Pastor Tony Dockery of St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church in La Puente, California had two great short messages on YouTube:

One is titled **“I Am the Problem”**
<https://youtu.be/uCprbsofWy8>

The second is **“I Am the Solution”**
<https://youtu.be/jWErKmW-438>

www.stsbc.org

Pastor Rick Warren from Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California has been doing an excellent series on **“A Faith that Works When Life Doesn’t.”** This series is based on the book of James and has been a **valuable resource** in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and now as we face the issues of racism and injustice.
www.saddleback.com

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.rainingshope.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. 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**

Meet Hillary



Dear Raining Hope Sponsors:

Praise the Lord! I bring you Calvary greetings from the Raining Hope family. My name is Hillary and I am 24 years old. I recently graduated from Uganda Baptist Seminary in Jinja with a Diploma of Theology. All the glory and honor back to Jesus our Savior!

Allow me to express my gratitude in a special way by thanking all our sponsors who have been of great help while we are running this race and journey of salvation because without your contribution we would not have reached this far. Your faithful giving towards the Raining Hope family has always made sure that we go to good schools, have quality medications, good balanced diets, access to clean water, pay all house consumption bills

2020

to mention but a few. Our prayer to all of you is that extraordinary things continue to be part of your portion as you serve Him, the King in the land of the living.

I joined Raining Hope in 2007 while my life was in despair. In the same year I accepted Jesus Christ to be my personal Lord and Savior. This came about after failing to live with my stepmother. She always mistreated me to a point of making me homeless. As a result of the torture, I was traumatized and found myself on the streets looking for survival.

Through Raining Hope I gained back my hopes that I had lost in life. I began to understand that I also have a purpose in the world. This is the way I realized my dream of becoming a teacher. With all of this, I got back on track and joined school again to work hard so that this dream would come true. While at school along the way, little did I know that God was calling me to be a teacher of His Word. This is the very reason why I joined a Theological School. The first day I stepped into my lecture room, I saw my dream come true.

Therefore, I thank Mama Kisakye in a special way for her commitment to the Raining Hope family. We have been able to have a second hope and purpose in life. All of you, our sponsors have given us that HOPE for a better future. Thank you and Happy 10th Anniversary!

Grace and Peace,
Hillary

Birthday: July 13, 1995
Dream: Pastoral Ministry

Hillary is one of the leaders on the worship team. His favorite subject is Christian Religious Education. Hillary loves soccer and volleyball.

His favorite Bible verses is Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."



2019



2017



2019

Meet Jemimah



2019

Dear Sponsors,
Greetings from Raining Hope Africa. My name is Jemimah. I am in Primary Seven. I am 13 years old. I study from Victoria Nile School. I want to thank you all for everything you have done for us, support, prayers, care and love. May the Lord bless you all.

My dream is to become a doctor in the future. Through this I want to serve God and treat a lot of people from different diseases.

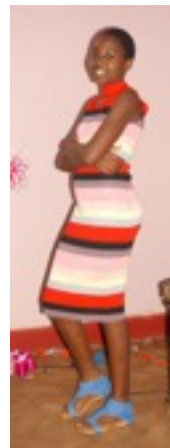
I also want to treat my family when they need the doctor's attention. That's why I am doing my best to study hard. If it was not for your support I would not be where I am now.



Thank you all. I am praying for you.
Happy 10th Anniversary!
Jemimah

Birthday: January 21, 2007
Dream: To become a doctor

Jemimah loves swimming. Her favorite subject is Social Studies. Her favorite verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



National Heroes Day in Uganda - June 9, 2020



"**Heroes Day** is an annual event to pay tribute to people who exemplified and defended the highest values of patriotism and sacrifice for the well being of the country of Uganda and its citizens."

Raining Hope would like to honor OUR HEROES, our supporters and sponsors who pray, care, love and sacrificially give towards the well-being of our family. **We salute you, all our Heroes** for joining our vision to go "**deep before wide,**" making a life-long investment to raise up a generation of people who will be used by God to change Uganda and the world. The testimonies each month are the proof of the lives that are being changed. **TOGETHER we give God all the glory and honor. You deserve our deepest thanks** for helping to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). **You matter to us.** You are making an **eternal difference.** We love you all!