

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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A message from Godfrey

To all our friends and partners:
We know the outbreak of the Corona virus has affected the entire world. This has caused panic and fear in the hearts of men. In such times, things are difficult because it requires changes in how we live. When I thought about this situation around the globe, I thought of years back in the days of Moses and the nation of Israel. According to the Bible, they were faced with venomous snakes that threatened their lives. God asked Moses to raise a bronze snake so that whoever looks to it will survive. (Numbers 21:6-9)

I want to encourage you at such a time to put your trust in the Lord our God. Look to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith. God always asks us to not fear. It is not because there are no such things that cause us to fear. But the truth is we are not to fear because He is with us. Therefore, let us be strong in the Lord and let's all look to Him. Here in Uganda, we are trusting God on a regular daily basis for our survival.

In a special way, I would love to send our condolences as the Raining Hope family to those whose lives have been taken or affected by this virus. May the God of all comfort give you peace beyond measure through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We love you and shall continue to pray with you.

We stand together at such times.

With Love,
Godfrey
Raining Hope Ministries, Uganda



COVID-19 UPDATE

The development of the COVID-19 virus is impacting communities all around the world. We wake up each morning to news that has changed overnight. By evening we have new restrictions put in place to help stop the spread of the virus.

We all have been given tools on how to stay safe. We are all taking necessary precautions. There are many of our churches who had online services last weekend that addressed COVID-19 and did an excellent job.

I want to specifically share with you the facts of how COVID-19 is affecting our Raining Hope family and how you can pray.

Here are the facts of what is happening in Uganda, and specifically the Raining Hope family

- 1) They currently don't have any known cases of COVID-19
- 2) In order to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19, the Ugandan government just ordered all public gatherings be shut down. That includes church fellowships as well as school.
- 3) Markets (food) will be ordered to close next week.
- 4) Hospitals may operate but only those the government allows to stay opened (not all clinics will remain open which may affect our family).
- 5) Banks may not be accessible starting next Friday
- 6) Prices are rising on all supplies especially food. By next week the prices can increase by almost 70%.
- 7) The shut down will be for 32 days.

Godfrey shared the differences in culture that make this shutdown critical.

- 1) The Ugandan culture survives and thrives on meeting together
- 2) Their economy doesn't favor isolation
- 3) The majority of people depend on daily income to survive. The people in the market who sell food use their income for the day to pay for food that night for their families
- 4) The food that the Ugandans eat daily is fresh. Staples are beans, rice and posho (wheat flour). We purchase these three items one month at a time to last 30 days. Meat is always fresh not frozen or processed. Vegetables are sold fresh daily. They do not have the ability or funds to stock up for a long period of time.
- 5) These restrictions can actually lead to more deaths not from the COVID-19 virus but from hunger.
- 6) The people are not equipped to sustain life in this condition for more than a month. Some have even gone so far as thinking it is a conspiracy to kill them by hunger.

Because of this news, **Raining Hope Ministries** has the opportunity to bring **HOPE in the midst of panic, PEACE in the midst of chaos, HIS TRUTH in the midst of lies and fear.**

Our encouragement for you is to keep your eyes on the One who is unchanging & His Word that is filled with HOPE, PEACE, LOVE & TRUTH. **His Words are more powerful than anything we can say.**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall [a]direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

HEALTH PRAYER ISSUES

Over the past couple of months we have had many **health challenges**. There were many cases of malaria, typhoid and other serious health conditions.

Tamarah - typhoid and severe headaches
 Jael - major stomach pains.
 Jemimah - infection that caused a strong cough
 Joanne - peptic ulcers
 Annet - ovarian inflammation and a root canal
 Irene - malaria

They were all able to receive treatment and are on the mend. We had many sick all at once which caused our medical bill at the local hospital to increase. Due to some generous gifts we were able to pay off most of our hospital bill.

Praying for Godfrey's step mom. Last week she was taken to the hospital with kidney issues, the effects of ARV drugs (for HIV) on her nervous system. She remains critical.

Continue to keep our Raining Hope family and extended family at Hotel Paradise in your prayers especially concerning their health.

COVID-19 PRAYER CONCERNS

Godfrey is meeting with church leaders tomorrow (March 21st) to discuss the way forward. They don't have the ability as we do to have church services streamed. Pray for them as they discuss how to encourage the church and all the people. Pray for our Ambercoast Community that Raining Hope will continue to be a light in the darkness.

Pray for the funds needed immediately to insure that our family can buy food for the next 32 days before the markets completely shut down. Budget and school fees are the first priority. We want to wire money Monday to make sure they have food before markets and banks close.

Due to the loss of the annual tamale fundraiser, we have been running behind about a month. Pray for these financial needs:

Debts from February: \$409
 Needed for March budget - \$1,576
 School fee balance for 1st Term - \$1,572
 Repair van - \$515
 New Tires for van - \$518
 Godfrey still without use of the van. Now it is needed for emergencies

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

About two weeks ago, I was on my morning prayer walk. I came across a small, injured bird. I was not sure what to do, I saw a neighbor across the street. His advice was "Oh well. Some predator will come and take care of it." That was not ok with me. Poor bird was still alive and I just couldn't walk away. I used a few leaves, I scooped up the bird and placed it in a safer place in a bed of flowers. I walked by the next day and sadly discovered the bird did die. But I was thankful it wasn't eaten alive or run over by a car! At this time of uncertainty, Matthew 6:26 brings comfort that if our Father takes care of the birds of the air, **"are you not much more valuable than they?"** Here is a link to a YouTube video for Natalie Grant's version of "His Eye is On the Sparrow"

<https://youtu.be/p5vMQyR2-Ps>



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.raininghope.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. We may or may not have access to the office for the next few weeks. 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



A generous donation was given last month to help towards our first term school fees in honor of Melvin J. Budmark who passed away July 21, 2019. Mr. Budmark valued education. He was unable to go beyond the 8th grade because he had to go to work to help support his family during war years and the depression. He always wanted to be an architect and invented several propane related items and tanker transports. He worked his way up the corporate ladder and retired three different times the last being in his 80's. We thank Mr. Budmark's family who made this donation to honor his incredible life. They wanted to share the following testimony of the precious days leading to his going home.

In Loving Memory of Melvin J. Budmark

Melvin J. Budmark had many prayers lifted up to the Lord on his behalf for his salvation. At the age of 95 years, Melvin (Mel) was led to the saving grace of Jesus Christ by his son-in-law. Three days later, Mel shared a story of a dream he had about a house being built for him in Heaven. During his lifetime, Mel designed, built, and sold many homes for himself and his family. Mel shared the following story about his dream:

"...The Head Guy in heaven was showing me around and the house that was to be mine was currently being built and would soon be ready for me. The Head Guy took me to see my house and I knew every person on the building crew and they all came to shake my hand and greeted me with handshakes and hugs. I couldn't believe I knew everyone of them! I even knew the foreman! Then the foreman told me I had to 'go back' because my house wasn't ready for me and when it was ready, I would be coming back again. The Head Guy put HIS hand on my shoulder and led me back to where we began our walk. I know Heaven is going to be great because I got to see the house they are building for me there."

Mel rested easy that night with a smile on his face. Four days later, Mel got to see the completed house he had seen in his dream. Praise Jesus for Grace and Love!