



A Good-News, Micro-Business Story!

Dear Friend,

Not that long ago, Gerald was a mess. You would be, too.

His dad's middle name was Rage. Gerald's mom and his 11 brothers and sisters cowered whenever they saw that angry face and heard those curses (domestic violence is not legal, but no one intervenes). His dad married multiple wives (polygamy is legal) which means the old man was away more than he was home (which was actually a relief). Life was tough. No one was happy. **Hope had been snatched away and buried deep in the dirt of despair.**

Around the time Gerald turned 13, his mom had had enough. She was raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and she made the agonizing decision to flee to the family who had loved her. She divorced her husband and disappeared across the border.

Gerald and his siblings were on their own. Without the financial support of their mother, they were forced to drop out of school. For six years, Gerald barely survived by performing hard labor for those who didn't pay him except for barely enough food to stay alive, along with a place to sleep on a muddy floor.

But then the sun broke through.

Vincent, Ourganda's ministry coordinator, went home-to-home in the village of Sarakihombya, looking for people who wanted to dream. He met Gerald, listened to his story, and sensed something deeper than his pain. He learned Gerald had wished he could become a carpenter. Vincent told this young man about the Carpenter from Nazareth who once built



chairs but now builds men and women and releases them to achieve their dreams. Vincent came alongside Gerald and helped him devise a plan of action to start hand-crafting furniture and sell his work.

Gerald's life changed. His success multiplied. He inspired other young people to join him. He emerged as a leader who not only mentored others to create



Our villages are becoming places where more and more people feel healthy, happy, safe, and hopeful. People like Gerald are the heroes of this story. **But you can be a hero, too.** Your gifts are powerful tools in the hands of these people who are eager to take control of their own future.

Every penny matters.

furniture but to set goals, to live for the future, to begin to lift themselves out of poverty and away from the brink of financial disaster.

He saved some of his profits and bought a plot of land and has already built a small, semi-permanent house. His standard of living has dramatically changed. Gerald is now on an unstoppable mission to build a powerful carpentry business while inspiring others to dream. **"I cannot tell you how happy I am," Gerald says.** His face is a roadmap of joy.

Business is the most effective way to fight poverty. We are thrilled with the stories that are already emerging from our villages. When I visited Uganda last month and met some of the young people who are building beds, tables and doors, I witnessed firsthand the hope, determination, and optimism that flew from every chisel, every hand plane, and every saw.



Ron Gladden
Ourganda Director

P.S. Simply saying "Thank you" doesn't seem sufficient. If I could think of better ways to say it, I most certainly would!



Ongoing Projects	Cost	Needed
Water Backpacks	\$5.50 each	hundreds
Kits (Hygiene, Birthing)	\$8 each	hundreds
Kids Kits	\$10 each	hundreds
Urgent Medical Surgeries	\$1,000 average per person	