

Kakrao prayer update - June



Dear Friends,

This month I thought you'd like to 'meet' Nancy and find out about how her life has been changing and some of the challenges she faces.

Nancy belongs to Kitumba Mwangaza Women's Group. There are 16 women and 4 men in the group and they meet every Tuesday. She is 35 and is married to Evans (also 35). They care for 3 children: the first is a niece, Mauleen (14), the second daughter, Shivon (6) and the youngest boy is called Emmanuel (9 months).

Nancy has recently been trained in sustainable agriculture as part of the Send a Cow project and was proud to show us her new crops and vegetables. A few months ago, she was only growing kale and a few other crops (maize and bananas) but was not managing to feed her family well. Now she has a productive garden with several varieties of vegetable, including kale, onions, tomatoes, spinach, amaranthus, cow peas, beans and other local vegetables. She's learnt how to compost and conserve water which has made her bananas and maize far more productive.



"The old vegetables and crops were not very healthy, but these new ones are very productive. Now my soil is very fertile, thanks to composting."

It is only during the last month or two that she has managed to sell the surplus for profit, but she is already excited about the prospect of extending her vegetable plot and being able to sell vegetables in Migori town! She even plans to hire a motorbike to take her and her vegetables to town where she can get an even higher price. She is very ambitious:

"Send a Cow has given me the idea to do this and now I have the knowledge, even if SAC leaves, I can expand my vegetables and supply onions and tomatoes to the hotels in Migori town."

Kakrao, is typically highly drought prone and during several months of the year, Nancy's only water source is the Migori river: an arduous hour long round trip which has to be made twice a day, carrying a 20 litre jerry can on her head up a steep hill. You can only begin to imagine how hard this must be for Nancy, and the others in her community group. However, she has used her initiative and put up a short length of guttering under part of her house roof, with which she can collect a small amount of water. It's not very efficient yet, but it's a start! Very soon, the Send a Cow team will be providing training in other structures which will improve her water harvesting even further.

Nancy is excited at the possibility that she will no longer have to make the long trek to collect water in the dry season. Work will start soon on spring capping, making her life so much better.

Evans, Nancy's husband, is blind and therefore many of the tasks around the home and farm fall to her alone. Evans contributes to the family income through his work in Migori town as a public primary school teacher, but it is a low paid job. He also has to pay a "reader" to assist him in his work through reading and writing for him, as well as pay for the motorbike which takes him, his niece and his daughter to and from school every day. However, Nancy does not feel that the fact her husband is blind is an obstacle at all:



"I believe God loves me and God loves my husband..... we survive because I love him and I take care of him. He is so friendly: he is welcomed everywhere; he is happy and everyone loves him, especially the children."

What a wonderful family! Please do pray for them.

Please pray:

- Praise God for Nancy and her optimism and eagerness to make changes to her life.
- Pray that her work will be fruitful and that he would protect Nancy and her family.
- Pray that all in the community would be successful with growing new vegetables and they would grow enough to sell and bring in an income, as well as help them to lead healthy, happy lives.
- Pray for those who have to walk such long distances to fetch water. Pray that the spring capping project will get underway soon and benefit more people than ever with clean water.

Thank you for your continued prayers,
Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ann Hatton'.

Ann Hatton
Church Development Manager

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