



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

August 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.” **Isaiah 12:2**

Meet Baby Junior



We showed a quick glimpse of Baby Junior in last month's newsletter. We welcomed him into the Children's Home on Saturday, June 28th.

Baby Junior was abandoned at a local church not too far from the Old Kampala Police Station. He was found around 3:00 a.m. by a security guard at the church, who called the police. The police contacted us later that morning about caring for Junior at the Children's Home.

A note was left attached to Junior when he was abandoned. The mother wrote a heartbreaking letter saying that she was worried her son would soon die because she could not feed him. She told his name and also said that she was living on the streets trying to find work and begging. In her letter, she prayed that God would take care of Junior and find him a good home.

“In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears.” **2 Samuel 22:7**

When we received Junior we quickly took him for a medical check-up. He was 10 months old and only weighed 10 lbs. He is extremely malnourished. Just 4 weeks later, Junior now weighs 17.6 lbs. He has gained 7.6 lbs. in only 4 weeks...that's almost 2 lbs./week. His initial medical check-up went well however, he has been wheezing. We are taking him to the pediatrician this Friday to discover if it is from a cold or something else that needs to be treated. Please pray for Junior's health and that he will continue to gain weight. Please pray for financial provision that we can care for all of his needs. For a period of time Junior needs a specially prescribed high protein formula that is very expensive.....costs us \$30/week. That is \$120/month for only his formula.



Prayerfully consider sponsoring Junior!
We need 4 monthly sponsors just to cover the cost of his formula.



Meeting with Government Officials and Police Officers

The Ugandan government has recently passed new laws that call for an Alternative Care Plan for each child. For example, if a child is an orphan and the parents are no longer living then they hope to find relatives who could care for the child.....maybe an aunt or uncle or even a grandparent. If there are no living relatives, then the child could be placed into foster care or adopted domestically by a Ugandan family.

Meeting with Officials at Rafiki Children's Home

There are **over 500** childcare institutions in Uganda. It is believed that there are **over 100,000** children living in residential care in Uganda. Many of these children have extended family members who need to be found. Many orphanages in Uganda are poorly run and the children are not being cared for properly, some at or below the poverty level. This new government initiative will help close the orphanages that are not protecting the children by keeping in best practice and call for children that have extended relatives to be reintegrated into the family and community.

In partnership with the government, we have been asked to take part in a pilot program. Only the top 18 Child Care Institutions in Uganda have been chosen to take part in the pilot study. As you can imagine, we were honored to be considered one of the best and to be asked to join this program. This program will mean that we will receive training on how to trace family members of a child, how to do home studies once the family has been traced, how to assess whether a child can be placed back with family members, and then how to help a child be resettled (or reintegrated) with the family members.

For some of our children we have already been able to trace extended family members. We have a few children that we have even been able to trace a parent – mother or father. This has been a joy in that the kids have been able to meet their biological family members and get to know their family history. While the kids are on holiday from school, some of our children will be able to spend one week visiting their family.

As you can imagine, this will be a long process and transition. This will push us out of our comfort zone. We are putting total trust in God to teach us these new steps in the reintegration process. We do not yet know how this will fully impact us as a ministry but we are trusting in the Lord and excited to see the fruit that will come out of this transition.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Please pray with us In the upcoming months! We have always believed that it is important to keep families together and are extremely excited about the steps that the Ugandan government is taking to help more children stay in families.

“I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Psalm 91:2



Update on Hannah

Hannah continues to adjust and do well at the Children's Home. She is currently taking iron supplements because her blood count is low. Please pray for her health and that her iron levels will get back to normal.

We are still in need of more sponsors to take care of Hannah's needs. Please let us know if you are interested in supporting Hannah.



Aunt Courtney with Hannah



Aunt Beth Ann with James and Aisha

**Photos Taken
Outside of the
Gate to Rafiki
Children's Home**

Short-Term Missionaries Serving this Summer

Aunt Beth Ann and Aunt Courtney left us this past week to go back home to Texas. We are so thankful that they were able to serve 2 months with us this summer. They both have a servant's heart and were willing to do anything to help. They were a HUGE blessing to us. They even volunteered to take care of Baby Junior for a

weekend so that I could get some rest. Pray for them as they adjust to being in their home culture. Missionaries not only experience culture shock when they arrive in the country they are serving but also experience culture shock and sometimes even a period of grief as they return home. Pray for them as they share their experience. We are so thankful for those that helped send them through giving.



**← Mama Sara, Aunt Courtney, Aunt Beth Ann,
and Mama Esther taking a day trip to Jinja to see
the Source of the Nile River.**

Amazing servants of the Lord washing a rug →

The tank on the right holds water that we haul in to use when we do not have running water in the house.



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for enabling us to provide a home for Hannah and Baby Junior! Pray for God to provide the money through sponsors or donations to cover the cost of Junior's formula and both of their medical needs.
- Pray for the children who suffered malnutrition, physical, and emotional trauma before they came to us. Pray that they do not have lasting problems due to this.
- Pray for our short-term missionaries, Beth Ann and Courtney as they return to America. They have served with us for the entire summer. Pray for them as they transition to being back in the States. Pray as they share their experiences and that people will hear the gospel message and become more aware of the orphans of this world.
- Pray for the children and staff as we strive to be more like Jesus everyday. Pray for the children as they learn more about the Lord daily and grow in their walk. Pray they will accept Him as their personal Savior.
- Pray for more monthly financial sponsors that will enable the ministry to provide a home for more hurting children.
- Pray for Rafiki as we continue to work with the local Police, government officials, and Social Workers on the placement of abandoned and orphaned children. Praise God for the training we will be doing in child reintegration. Pray that we can learn from this training and apply the information that we have learned.
- Pray for excellent physical, mental, and spiritual health for the Rafiki Kids, Staff, Directors, and Missionaries.
- Pray for God's protection over Rafiki Africa Ministries, the directors, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and children from spiritual attack from the evil one.
- Pray that our ministry will be far reaching and that many will receive Christ as their Savior as a result of our efforts.
- Pray for God's guidance in raising the children to be godly adults.
- Pray for God's guidance, and wisdom as we seek His direction and vision for the Ministry. Pray that he reveals His will for our ministry as we have basically reached capacity at our current home.
- Praise God for his continuous provision, especially for supplying our needs.
- Praise God for our sponsors and contributors who have been inspired by God to give of their time, resources, money, and talents. Pray that we will be good stewards of all that is given to us.
- *"In all things give thanks". 1Thessalonians 5:88*

Ways YOU can support the ministry –

- **PRAY** for the ministry and orphans in Uganda. *"Brothers and sisters, pray for us."* (1 Thessalonians 5:25)
- **GIVE** financially. 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 says, *"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people."*
- **SERVE** on the mission field and come to Uganda. We can use anyone who is willing to serve. *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."* (Romans 12:6-8)
- **CONNECT** the ministry with local churches, service clubs, schools, businesses, friends, and family. Please email Sara at sara@rafikiministries.org if you are interested in arranging a speaking engagement.
- **SPEAK UP** and tell their story. What a simple way of obeying God's instruction to us about the poor...simply tell their story. Proverbs 31:8-9 says *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."*

Please Give by Sponsoring a Life

Prayerfully consider making a one-time donation or become a monthly sponsor. You can sponsor a child for only \$35 per month OR any amount you wish. Every little bit helps keep Rafiki Africa Home running. We are currently providing a home for 18 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Junior, Hannah, James, Janat, Aisha, Emma, Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Brenda, Cocus, Mary, and Joshua. When you decide to sponsor a child you will be helping

take care of their needs by paying for their shelter, medical needs, food, clothes, and education. Prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these children as a family or as an individual. If you decide to sponsor a child please notify me by email: sara@rafikiministries.org

Methods for Giving:

Donate through PayPal using the link on our website → www.rafikiministries.org

Please mail checks to: **Rafiki Africa Ministries**
P.O. Box 3526
Pflugerville, TX 78691-3526

We are a non-profit organization in the State of Texas. 100% of money raised goes to helping orphaned and destitute children in Uganda. Rafiki is classified as a 501©3 charity and contributions to Rafiki are tax deductible under Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the tax code. Rafiki is qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the code. This exemption is retroactive from the date of filing the 501©3. For further clarification, [contact Frank Hamilton at \(512\) 771-0681 \(USA\)](tel:5127710681)
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Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries