



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

January 2015 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

Isaiah 55:6

Happy New Year!

As we look back on 2014, we have witnessed incredible things....things that were only possible because of YOU! Your compassion has provided a loving home for 19 abandoned children. Thank you for playing an invaluable role in our work in Uganda this year! We have compiled a list of a few things that have been accomplished this past year:

- Admitted 4 new children at the Children's Home
- Cared for 19 children at the Children's Home
- Traced and reconnected 11 children with their family members and started the reunification process for these children and their families
- Worked with larger organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, VIVA/CRANE, and Child's I Foundation
- Participated in several trainings on Child Protection and Resettlement
- Worked more closely with the Ugandan government and police in charge of Child Protection and Social Welfare
- Recognized with 5 other orphanages as best Children's Homes in Kampala and chosen to participate in a pilot program, "Strong Beginnings Project: A family for all children"
- Employed 1 new Ugandan staff member to work as a childcare worker
- 11 short-term missionaries lived and served at the Children's Home at various times throughout the year
- Served with short-term missionaries at weekly outreaches (babies' homes, special needs' Children's Home, etc.)

We are excited for what is to come in 2015! The month of January is going to bring lots of changes for the ministry and for the children that we care for. We will be hiring a full-time social worker to be in charge of the tracing and resettlement process. Several of our children will be reunited with family members and Rafiki will support the children from their family homes. We are excited to be reuniting children with their families.

Everything that the ministry has been able to accomplish wouldn't have been done without YOUR help!! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! We cannot say it enough. It is with the help of supporters like YOU that we are able to do God's work in Uganda!



**Kids had FUN
during holiday with
Arts & Crafts 😊**





Story from short-term missionary, Grace Klein

“This last week has been a little bit more of a reality check. Not in a bad way necessarily, but a truer welcoming to Africa at least. I had heard the tales of culture shock, the phases of excitement, frustration and acceptance, and the feelings of inadequacy that ebb and flow as you come to see yourself in the middle of a proverbial beach with a million starfish, throwing them back into the ocean one by one.

I emailed some close friends and family members this week, outlining some of the struggles I am facing as I wade my way into my life here. One of the main things that struck me and has stuck in my mind came when we dropped 11 of the older kids off with their families for the holidays. Many of the kids here were abandoned long ago but either have aunts and uncles, grandparents, or their own parents that resurfaced some years later wanting to see them. And so for the month of December while they are out of school, they will not be with Rafiki, but will stay at their homes.

We took the kids one by one last week, and I had an opportunity to see much more of Uganda than the sweet little neighborhood in which we live. I was quickly introduced to small village huts outside the city as well as the deepest slums in the heart of Kampala. The part of me that had imagined Africa or poverty in the past was suddenly knocked into consciousness with each neighborhood, home and face that I saw. Several of the relatives invited us in, made us some of the little food that they had, and thanked us earnestly for taking care of the children. We walked through the dirty, grimy and smelly streets of the slums, carefully avoiding the puddles and piles of burning garbage, ignoring the squawking of wild chickens and the visible ribs of the street dogs, and in my case, smiling and waving and holding hands with the kids who would continue to run after me, eager to touch a mzungu (AKA white person), smiling and giggling in the middle of it all. I had a hard time not being angry at myself or at God, not feeling guilty or ashamed. I have sat in what can only be described as luxury in comparison, and complained about my life, bemoaned my circumstance and asked God “why”. This week, I asked Him a whole new question of “why”. Why me? Why not me? Why this? Why do you allow it? Those aren’t answers I’ll ever get. But they are worth asking....

Aside from the difficulty of not only dropping off 11 children for a month, but leaving them in such conditions, it has also been a challenging experience staying behind. Entertaining and playing with really little kids has never been my strongest point and I am now getting a full dose of it! Nothing could prepare me more for parenting, I think, than what these few months will hold for me. It is challenging to keep up with it all, to change diapers, feed and bathe babies, fold and put away laundry, help keep things clean, potty train, keep the children entertained and out of mischief. I am learning and growing but each day is not without its frustrations and I have moments of thinking I am terrible at kid-wrangling and maybe not nearly as cut out for this as I thought. But then the kids call me Auntie, they giggle at me and smile, they climb into my lap and snuggle, and I get to do devotions with them, put them to bed and tell them I love them. That makes up for the rest...

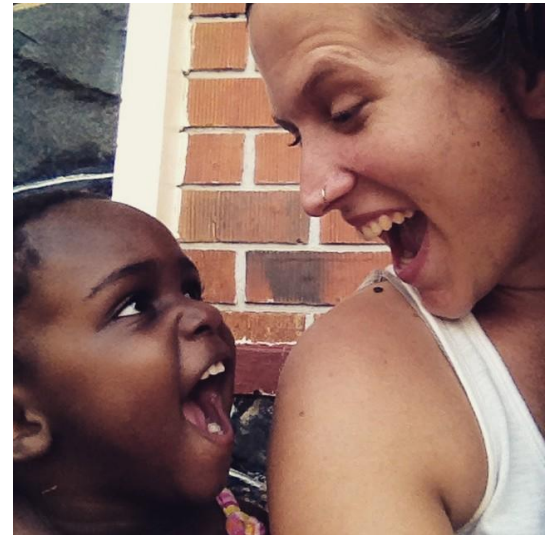
The staff is amazing and tirelessly works for this place and for these kids. Their humility and servant hearts are already teaching me so much as they keep this place running, never complaining. They worship endlessly and love fully. Talk about living what Christ taught. I look forward to knowing them and working alongside them even more.

Please pray for Rafiki, for the staff. They do a great thing here and these children are precious. Please pray for them too, that they will grow up to love Jesus and one day change the world, starting with the nation of Uganda.”

- Posted on Monday, December 8, 2014 by Grace Klein. Read the full story version on Grace's blog - RedeemingintheMoment.blogspot.com

Update on Land

We received several donations before the end of the year to go specifically towards land. Thank you to everyone that is supporting us in expanding the ministry. We have now raised \$26,500 for land. Thank you for getting us closer to reaching our goal of raising \$40,000. Our goal for this year is to be able to purchase land and start the process of clearing and farming the land. We desire to be more self-sustainable in the future. Please consider giving towards this goal.



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for the money that has been raised for the purchase of land. Pray for us as we seek to follow God's direction in the purchase of land and building and pray that He will provide the money we need so that we can move out of our rented Rafiki Home.
- Praise that Joseph, Sara and their two girls, Abby and Zoe, made it safely back to Uganda.
- Pray for our short-term missionary, Grace Klein, as she continues to serve with us until February 14th.
- Pray for short-term missionaries, Kyle Walker, Patty Walter, and Patty Wade, who will be coming to serve with us in the month of February. This will be Kyle's second trip and he is bringing his mother and her friend to serve.
- Pray for our children as they reconnect with family members. Pray that they will bond and build relationships.
- Pray that we will receive enough new sponsors to take care of all of James, Hannah, Ruth, and Junior's needs.
- 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 Rafiki as we continue to work with the local Police, government officials, and Social Workers on the placement of abandoned and orphaned children.
- 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 for God to make His will for the ministry very clear to us as we seek to follow his direction.
- Praise God for his continuous provision and generosity of blessings we receive from Him.
- 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”. 1st Thessalonians 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. 2nd 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 are in desperate need of teachers, childcare workers, nurses, etc. We can use anyone. “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, rotary clubs, schools, businesses, etc. Connect us with your 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 19 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Baby Junior, Ruth, 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)**
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Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries