



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

July 2015 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble." **Psalms 107:1-2**

Rafiki Providing Emergency Care for 5 Children!!!

On Saturday, June 13th, Ugandan police rescued 41 children from a dangerous cult. These children had been trafficked. Some of these children were kidnapped and forced into this cult. Other children were given away by their family. The cult hides the children away in homes all over Uganda and moves them frequently. These children are from various parts of Uganda.

This cult performed child sacrifice and other vile acts upon the children, including sexual abuse. Our Probation and Social Welfare Officer called us and requested we help care for some of the children. No Children's Home could take in all 41 children so the children were split up between several homes. Some sibling groups had to be split up. We had five available beds so we took in five of the children. Please pray for these children as they recover from the horrors they have experienced and adjust to their new home. The children are age 5 and younger. Please also pray for God's guidance for the Rafiki staff as they care for these children. Pray that we can find a child counselor to be able to assist us with working with these children. These children have suffered horrendous acts. The first days with us they didn't smile and were timid, but they are beginning to relax in their new environment and we've seen some smiles.

▼ Left to Right – Rebecca, Bright, Jimmy, Jennifer, Sharifa



Ivan and Baby Vanessa

We received a brother and sister, 3 year old Ivan and 1 ½ year old Vanessa, from the police on June 8th. Neighbors heard the children in their home and discovered that they had been abandoned by their mother. They cared for the children hoping the mother would return, but after two days, took the children to the police.

Ivan and Vanessa ►



Both Ivan and Vanessa were severely malnourished. Ivan had the bloated tummy, yellow eyes, and discolored hair from lack of food, but has received a good check-up from the doctor. Baby Vanessa was so severely malnourished that she was struggling to survive. The doctors thought Vanessa might live if she received special feeding and we tried desperately to save her but she gave up her last breath in my arms the next day. I tried to resuscitate her but God welcomed her into Heaven. It has been an emotional couple of weeks as the children learned of Vanessa's passing. Please pray for the Rafiki family as we grieve this little one who is now in Heaven.

Amazing Love

By: Robert Ssempande, Uganda

Your love, O Lord, amazes me;
As a mystery I unfold,
Day by day its gist I hold.
No need of man Your nature told,
Yet Lord, You made him for Your love.
I stand in awe at the depth You have,
The length, breadth and height of love.
Your love, O Lord, amazes me.

So oft I failed to do good deeds,
But still You poured sweet rain of love
When I was yet a lowly dove.
None but Your dearest Son You had,
Yet Lord, You gave Him for mankind,
Knowing them that would but despise
And reject this gift of love so prized.
Your love, O Lord, amazes me.

At my door, Lord, You firmly stood
Calling gentler than any father could:
"Come My child, your sins are none,
Come My child, your past is gone;
This gift, I give despite your deeds,
This gift I give, you need not earn,
So here, My child, have this – My life."
Your love, O Lord, amazes me.



▼ Ivan ▲



The above poem was in our Sunday church bulletin just after Vanessa died. I was having a difficult time dealing with Vanessa's death. Sometimes our world doesn't make sense and I was questioning, "Why God? Why didn't we get Vanessa sooner? We could have saved her". God used this Ugandan poem to speak to me. As I read the poem, I felt God's all consuming love – not only for me, but also for baby Vanessa. God assured me that He loves Vanessa so much that He did not want her to suffer anymore. He put me in Vanessa's life for those last moments so that she would not be alone and could feel God's love and presence when she passed away.

As you can see, Ivan is already much healthier and is a wonderfully resilient child. He was burdened by care for his sister but seemed relieved when we explained that she is being taken care of and has gone to live in Heaven. He was happy for her and asked, "But me, do I get to live here?" ~ Sara Kiwanuka

Thank you Lord for showing us how much you love us! Remember to praise God for the love God shows you!

Pray for Edwin!



Edwin (8 years old) has a condition called *clubbing of the fingers*, which is generally caused by lack of oxygen for a long period of time. We have taken him to several doctors and had many tests done over the past few months. We immediately thought of TB because his brother, Cocus, had Spinal TB when he came to live with us. We have been able to rule out tuberculosis and sickle cell disease. He has had blood work done



Edwin ▲

and other tests. A chest x-ray and CT scan show a mass on his lungs about the size of an adult fist or about half the size of his lung. He is having a biopsy to test the tissue of the mass. Our primary doctor thinks that the mass could be a result of a severe fungal infection. Cancer is another possibility. Please pray that we will get the results soon and have an easily treatable diagnosis. Please pray for Edwin, as it is scary for him to go through all of these tests. Please also pray for Edwin as he gets tired easily and is very weak.

The biopsy is costing \$250 USD and will be done on Tuesday, June 30th. If you would like to donate for this surgery, then please email sara@rafikiministries.org. Information about how to give is at the end of the newsletter.

In DESPERATE need of Child Sponsors!!!

One of the most difficult things about running a ministry such as ours, is the constant need to ask for money, but here we are again, asking. With six new children in the home and the medical costs for Edwin, we are in need of monthly financial supporters for these children. Please pray about partnering with us. For more information about our sponsorship program, email Sara Kiwanuka at sara@rafikiministries.org. You can also find more information about donating on our website.

Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Pray for the new children that we have received into the Children's Home. Pray that we can get monthly sponsors for each of these children so that we can support all of their needs.
- Pray for God to heal the mass in Edwin's lung.
- Praise God for our new land! Praise Him for providing funding for the land and for a fence. Pray for God's direction as we improve the land and for God to provide the funds that are needed for a well and for building. Pray that it will become a center of hope and refuge for many children.
- Please pray for the children by name that are living at the Children's Home: Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Rebecca, Bright, Jimmy, Ivan, Jennifer, Aisha, Sharifa, Emma, Addadi, Fauziya, Edwin, and Cocus.
- Pray for these children by name as they settle into their family homes: Annet, Acram, Shakirah, Brenda, Esther, Carol, Don, Jerom, Oscar, Joel, Mary, and Joshua.

- Pray for God's direction in making decisions about the best possible care for each Rafiki child.
- Praise God for the children under our care who carry their Christian faith to their families and serve as a witness to them during family visits and when they are resettled. Pray that God gives them boldness in sharing their faith.

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 supporting 29 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Baby Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Rebecca, Bright, Jimmy, Jennifer, Ivan, Acram, Sharifa, Aisha, Shakirah, Emma, Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Edwin, Brenda, Cocus, Addadi, Mary, and Joshua. Some of these children live at the Rafiki Children's Home, while others live with immediate or extended family and Rafiki helps with school fees and other necessities. 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 \(USA\)](mailto:contact@rafikiministries.org)
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Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries