



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

March 2015 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples.”

Genesis 28:3



▲ Joshua with his mother, grandmother and half-siblings.



▲ Joseph Kiwanuka with Joshua's grandmother.

JOY of Reintegrating Families



A Family for every child

We are proud to share that in February we reintegrated seven children with their family. It has been a busy month for us! Jerom and Joel, who are brothers, have been reunited with their biological parents. Don and Carol, who are cousins, were reunited with Don's Dad and stepmother. Oscar was reunited with his mother and step-Dad. Mary was reunited with her biological parents and siblings. Joshua was reunited with his mother and grandmother. We will be including more information about their stories and families in the coming newsletters.

◀ Joseph Kiwanuka with Don and Carol's family.

How does reintegration affect your child sponsorship??

Reintegration will not affect your sponsorship, as we will still need sponsors for every child that has been resettled with their family. Because these families are very poor we will be helping the families with school fees, school uniforms, school supplies, and other necessities for the child. We desire to help the children all the way through university. We will be periodically making phone calls and visiting the children on a monthly basis to check in to see how they are adjusting to their new homes.

Through a partnership with CRANE (Children at Risk Action Network) in Uganda, we have been able to give start-up, resettlement kits to each child. The kits include a mattress, sheets, towel, blanket, sandals, toiletry items, and some foodstuffs. This has been a HUGE blessing for the families that we work with!



↑ Joel and Jerom with their mother.



↑ Oscar reunited with his mother & half-brother

Meet Acram and Shakirah!!!



Acram and Shakirah are the newest children in the Children's Home. We were contacted by a local government official who told us about a blind grandmother who was struggling to care for her two grandchildren. Because of being blind, the grandmother could not see that the children had Jiggers. Jiggers, also known as the Chigoe flea, is a common parasite in the villages of Uganda. The flea burrows into exposed skin (usually on the feet) and remain there and begin to lay eggs. The skin swells dramatically and causes intense irritation. If the flea is left within the skin, dangerous complications can occur, including secondary infections, loss of nails, and toe deformation. Thankfully their Jiggers were caught at an early stage.

We decided it would be best to care for Acram and Shakirah at the Children's Home while so we can treat the Jiggers and we are hoping to work with their extended family and quickly resettle the children back into a safe and loving home.

Please pray for Acram and Shakirah as they adjust to living at the children's home. They are both old enough to go to school so we will need to support them with school fees. Prayerfully consider sponsoring Acram or Shakirah. Most schools in Uganda cost around 400,000 UGX (\$150 USD) per term with their being 3 terms in the school year.



Pray for God to provide... Rafiki now cares for 22 children.

As we resettle children with their families, we will be receiving new children to care for in the Children's Home. In the past month, we have resettled 7 children and have 4 new children who have come to live at the children's home. We are almost back to full capacity in the home. We are hoping to reunite more children with their families in the future so that we can care for even more children. In the long run, this will allow us to help MORE children and families. However, helping more children takes more finances. We are praying that God will send the much needed sponsors or donations to cover the cost of providing for children's needs. We do not ever want to have to say, "No" to taking on a child's case. And right now, we HAVE to say NO.

Please help us so that we do not have to ever say NO again. Prayerfully consider sponsoring one of the new children that we are caring for. Another way to help is to donate monthly or even a donation toward school fees or toward ministry costs. We are very frugal with what God gives us through our Rafiki sponsors but it costs a lot to feed so many children, keep them clothed, pay for school, medical care, and staff to minister to their needs. As we continue to grow and care for more children, we will also need to hire a Child/Family Counselor and another Social Worker to help with the child caseload. The desire of our heart is to lead families to Christ through the children we support, to mentor and teach them God's ways. Please pray for the ministry as God continues to grow and expand our vision.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

2nd Corinthians 9:8-11

Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Please pray for the children by name: Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Acram, Aisha, Shakirah, Emma, Annet, Esther, Fauziya, Edwin, Brenda, Cocus.
- Pray for these children by name as they settle into their family homes: Carol, Don, Jerom, Oscar Joel, Mary, and Joshua.
- 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 a boldness in sharing their faith.

- Pray for Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka as they face the daily challenges of directing Rafiki Africa Ministries and seek God's will for the ministry and their family.
- Pray for the volunteer missionaries that work with our ministry and live at the children's home. Pray that God brings to our ministry missionaries that have a great love for children and a true servant's heart. Pray for a hedge of protection around them, for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they minister to the people of Uganda.
- Pray for our children as they reconnect with family members. Pray that they will bond and build relationships. Pray, especially, for the families and the children who are being resettled with their families and will be starting in new schools.
- Pray for each child under our care, whether it be for a day, or for years, that they will know that they are loved and cared for by us and by God.
- Pray for our ministry as we reach out to families, to counsel them, and to share the love of Christ with them. Pray that entire families will be led to Christ and that those who are already believers will grow in their faith.
- 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.
- Pray that we will receive enough sponsors and donations to take care of all of our children's needs. Pray that as God is leading us in the direction of resettling children with their families that our sponsors will understand this change and continue to sponsor their children.
- 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 wisdom and 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 supporting 22 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Baby Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Acram, Aisha, Shakirah, Emma, Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Edwin, Brenda, Cocus, 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:frank@rafikiministries.org)
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries