



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

August 2016 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

**“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”
Psalm 143:8**



Meet Matrona!

Written by: Abbie Stream

Short-term missionary, Summer 2016

One Sunday, Uncle Joseph rushed in the house to tell me (Abbie Stream, short-term missionary) I would be escorting him to the police station. Without hesitation, we hopped in the car and headed to the station. He informed me that we were picking up a baby girl that had been abandoned. Immediately after seeing baby Matrona, I was in love. She was in the cutest hot pink floral dress and little brown winter boots. She had wild hair with little braids that covered her head. I was so taken with Matrona's free spirit and infectious laugh. We went into the police station to sign paperwork...well Uncle Joseph did. ;) I used my few Luganda words to draw Matrona in and make her laugh. She giggled and giggled on my lap. My heart completely melted for this little girl. It is an unbelievable blessing to care for a child of God. After the police station, we headed home and she proceeded to jump right in with the kids. Matrona is a ray of sunshine, but she is definitely battling the present absence of her mother. That first night she cried in my arms until she fell asleep.

↑ **Uncle Joseph with Matrona at the police station**

Sometimes I wonder how a parent could ever abandon their child, and then I think... why compare my dirty rags to another? God continues to love me day after day of sinning, never abandoning me. There is nothing that can separate us from the Father's love (Romans 8:35). It is so humbling to know how deeply God loves me when I am so incredibly undeserving of it. That is the beauty of His love. It covers all the grossness, dirtiness, and darkness we are showered with on a daily basis. Sin is sin. We are all dirty sinners desperately in need of a Savior to rid us of the filth engrained inside and around us. Let us be slow to judge and quick to love for we are all sinners saved by the grace of our God. With Him there is hope, redemption, and restoration for all.

I am thankful for the blessing Matrona is in my life, and for the power of God's love even amidst a sad situation of abandonment. Pray for restoration, healing, and strength for this family to band together, and Lord-willing reunite with their beautiful daughter, who really is something special.



Be the One!



Many people share posts or follow people on social media platforms. If a person is famous enough, they don't have to do much to have their voices heard. Eager ears await their every word and expectant eyes search for each



photo that is posted. What happens when the person is not rich or famous?

What if the person is one of millions who has been abandoned or abused? Sad images of starving children are not posts that generally receive thousands of likes on Instagram. Why? Because those are not the stories that "sell."

When the problem is so overwhelming, people become apathetic because it seems impossible to make a difference. What if that all changed? What if we became broken-hearted over every painful photo and our thoughts were heavy with each story of loss? What would happen? NOTHING. That is...NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN UNLESS ACTION ACCOMPANIED THOSE FEELINGS.

We will speak on behalf of those who have been silenced!



That is our goal at Rafiki Africa Ministries. We have met the people and heard the stories, and we are determined to share them with others. Why? Because they deserve to be heard! Once the story is heard, there are two choices to make. Either ignore it and continue on with your day, or let it take hold in the form of action. Whether that is sharing it with others or donating finances to provide assistance. Some people may grow weary of seeing the images we share or listening to the stories we tell, and that is okay. We will continue to share them because someone has to give a voice to those that have none. Otherwise, no one hears about the

mother who did not receive help in time to save her child. The one who had to watch daily as the son she adored starved to death before her eyes as she listened to his cries, unable to provide any sort of relief. This is what happened to one of the children in our care. We can share his story in the hope that another child can be saved.



**Be the One to Impact a Family
Become a Sponsor Today!**

www.rafikiministries.org



→ 4 Photos of families we have ministered to.

DONATIONS NEEDED:

As the Rafiki kids grow, they get bigger, which means they need bigger clothes. Each time we resettle children we provide clothing for them. Do you have kids or grandkids? A simple way to help is as they outgrow their clothes, please donate them. Call Frank Hamilton (512-771-0681) or Jo Hamilton (512-750-8047) to arrange to drop off items at 803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660. It's about a block from First Baptist Church Pflugerville. Kayla Longino, from Pflugerville, is coming to Uganda in September and Frank and Jo Hamilton are coming in October. They will pack items into luggage and travel with them to Uganda.

- New or used clothes for kids in all sizes from sizes infant 3 months to children's 16/18: pajamas, underwear, church clothes, play clothes, socks, and shoes. The weather here is 60-85 degrees year-round.
- School supplies such as crayons, markers, scrapbook paper, etc.
- Twin size sheets and bath towels
- Children's Bibles
- Lifeway and Mardel Gift cards to purchase biblical and educational materials



Opportunity to purchase another ½ acre of land

We have the opportunity to purchase another ½ acre of land that is directly across from the current 6 acres. We are praying about this opportunity and what God wants us to do. Please pray with us as we consider purchasing this land. It will cost roughly \$3,000 USD to purchase this land and have the land title transferred.

↑ **Our neighbors near the Rafiki Land. This is one of the families that will benefit from our future programs on the land.**

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka are excited to announce that they are expecting an addition to our family in September!



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Pray for the people of Uganda. Pray for those who are so destitute that they must abandon their families in hopes that their children will be “taken in” and survive. Pray for the Ugandan government as they seek ways to protect children and help the abandoned and orphaned children of Uganda. Pray for Children’s Homes, like Rafiki, who are struggling to have the finances and means to support as many children as possible.
- Praise that Katherine Chmielewski, short-term missionary, arrived safely in Uganda. Pray for opportunities for her to share her faith and to the “hands of Jesus”. Pray for Tori Denison and Ivy Dunavent as they return to the U.S., to have opportunities to share their experiences in order to further God’s kingdom.
- Pray for monthly financial sponsors for our newest children, so that we can support all of their needs.
- Pray that God will provide the funding needed to move to our new land. Currently, we need \$100,000 to complete the first part of our building phase so that we can move the Children’s Home permanently to our land in Kakiri. This will enable us to serve more children and families in the community.
- Please pray for the children by name that are living at the Children’s Home: Baby Florence, Tina, Max, Junior, Mungu, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Ivan, Aisha, Sophie, Winnie, Jerom, Joel, Addadi, Esther, Brenda, Fauziya.
- Pray for these children by name as they settle into their family homes: Annet, Acram, Shakirah, Carol, Don, Emma, Oscar, Cocus, Edwin, Mary, Joshua, Jimmy, Sharifa, Jennifer, Rebecca, and Bright.
- Please pray that the Rafiki staff and short-term missionaries will be strengthened physically, emotionally, and mentally as they care for the children.
- Pray for God’s direction in making decisions about the best possible care for each Rafiki child and for the use of our land. Pray that many children and families will come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- 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.

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 35 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Florence, Tina, Max, Junior, Mungu, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Rebecca, Bright, Jimmy, Jennifer, Ivan, Acram, Sharifa, Aisha, Shakirah, Emma, Carol, Don, Sophie, Winnie, 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 us by email: sara@rafikiministries.org

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 thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries

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."