



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

February 2016 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.” Psalm 8:2



Growing Our First Crop of Maize on The Land

One of our ministry goals is to be more sustainable in our projects. We purchased 6 acres of land last year and are in the process of raising funds to build in the future. While we are waiting to build, we decided it would be beneficial to utilize the land that we have. In November, all 6 acres was planted with corn. Planting is always done at the beginning of the rainy season so that the crops can grow. As you can see in the picture, the corn is growing well. It will be

harvested next month. After the harvest, the corn will be sold. Pray that the harvest will go well and that we will be able to get a good selling price. If this harvest season is successful, we will plant again in May at the beginning of the next rainy season.

“Now 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.” 2nd Corinthians 9:10

Urgent Needs – Washing Machine and Microwave

You can make life easier for those doing the laundry for the children. Our staff have many different roles to fill, so efficiency is key. We had two washing machines but one has been out of service for over 6 months. We have tried to get it fixed but it is not fixable. The second washing machine was recently repaired. For several months, we have been hand washing clothes and bedding. As you can imagine, this is a daunting task. A second washing machine would be so helpful to our staff. With so many little ones the laundry piles up quickly.

Our microwave has been on its last leg for awhile now and finally stopped working. We have spoken to an electrician to fix it but he says that it will cost more to repair it than it would cost to buy a new one.

Why we need a NEW Washer :

When you have 25-35 people using ONE washer for clothes, bedding, school uniforms (and everything else) it becomes a complicated game to get it all clean!

Cost of a washer : \$1000



Time for a New School Year



▲ Children performing on Graduation Day



◀ Edwin graduating from Kindergarten

It is important for us to maintain a loving relationship with the children that have been resettled with their families. We recently invited those children to stay at the Children's Home while they are on holiday from school. It has been such a joy to be able to spend a couple of weeks with them, to be able to reconnect with them and spend individual time with them. As you can see in the pictures, one of our favorite activities this holiday has been to play games. We have been able to do activities including daily Bible studies with the older children. Many of our older children have given their lives to Christ! We have also encouraged our children as they go back home to their families to continue to be an example and light to others. Many of the children's families are not Christian. Please pray for our children, as they will be going back home to their families before the school year begins.



In February three more children will be resettled with their families. Over the past year Emma, Cocus, and Edwin have been visiting their families and building relationships. They are excited about rejoining their families and starting in a new school. Pray that we are able to find affordable schools for them. School fees are one of the largest expenses that we have each year. For each child, it costs roughly \$250/term and there are 3 terms each year. School fees have to be paid in advance of the term. If you would like to assist with school fees, then please email us at sara@rafikiministries.org.

Daily Running of the Children's Home – Mama Monica, Childcare Worker and Cook

We are thankful for our amazing staff at the Children's Home. Mama Monica has been working with us for the past 4 years as a live-in cook and house mother. As one of the older staff members and with grown children of her own, she is very motherly with the children. She is wonderful with the children, especially the little ones. They love to follow her into the kitchen and hang out there while she cooks. She lives at the Children's Home and except for her time off, she is on call 24/7. She is dedicated and hardworking and is the Mama to us all – both kids and adults.



◀ Mama Monica cooking posho on the charcoal stove outside behind the Children's Home.

Posho is a thick porridge made from corn flour and is a staple in Uganda. We eat it everyday for lunch with beans. It does not have much flavor on its own, but is really good with beans.



Mama Monica serving lunch (posho and beans) in the kitchen for the children. ▶



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for his provision for us and pray that we can get monthly financial sponsors for all of the children so that we can support all of their needs. Pray that God provides the funding we need to accomplish His purpose for us.
- Pray for God's direction as we harvest the corn on the land.
- Pray for God to provide the funds that are needed for building on our land. Pray that it will become a center of hope and refuge for many children and families.
- Please pray for the children by name who are living at the Children's Home: Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Ivan, Aisha, Addadi, Esther, Brenda, and Fauziya.
- Pray for these children by name as they settle into their family homes: Annet, Acram, Shakirah, Carol, Don, Emma, Jerom, Oscar, Esther, Brenda, Joel, 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.
- 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.
- Praise God for all He has done in 2015 and for all He plans to do through Rafiki in 2016 and the years to come.

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) 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:frank@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