



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

July 2016 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

Luke 15:20b

Meet Winnie, Sophie, Mungu, & Tina!



In our last newsletter, I talked about the overwhelming need that we see in Uganda. This season has been one of abandonment. We receive 3 to 4 calls a day from the police and our social welfare officer asking us to take in children. Recently, the Ugandan government passed new laws in regards to child protection and the running of orphanages. This has been good as there are many orphanages (over 500) in Uganda that are operating illegally and with the sole purpose of exploiting children. The new laws are implementing stricter regulations and many of these illegal orphanages are being closed. This has helped to protect many children's lives but also means that good homes are being inundated with children because of the shortage of government approved children's homes.



The unfinished “home” where the siblings were living before their father abandoned them. →

On June 23rd, Joseph received a call from the police station. At the police station we met Winnie (7), Sophie (6), Mungu (3), and Tina (1). They had been living with their father because their mother had left their father for another man. The father and an older brother abandoned the children. Winnie, the oldest child, left her other siblings where they were living and went to find someone to help. She made it to the police station where she told the Child Family Protection Unit (CFPU) about her other siblings and that they had been abandoned. The CFPU quickly took Winnie to find the other siblings and was able to find a pastor friend to take them for a few days while she looked for their parents. After a few days, Rafiki was called to take in the siblings since it was taking a while to trace their parents. The Rafiki Team was able to go see where the siblings had been staying and talk to a neighbor who said their mother left four months ago leaving them alone with their father in the unfinished house. Winnie was able to tell Auntie Doreen, one of our childcare workers, about some family members she knew about. Winnie is a very bright child and could remember where her father and older brother work and where her grandparents live. Auntie Florence, our social worker, has begun to follow up with the neighbors and police to trace family members.

**Please pray for these children as they adjust to being at the Children's Home.
Please pray that family members can be traced and that they can be reunited with extended family.**



← Bedroom where the children were sleeping



Removing Jiggers from Winnie, Sopie, Mungu, and Tina's precious little feet. →

Rafiki staff are removing jiggers from the children's feet. Jiggers (NOT CHIGGERS) are parasitic burrowers. They are small chigoe fleas that live in the dust and are found on the dirt floors in many schools and homes in Uganda. The female jiggers burrow into the surface of skin that has been exposed to the flea. Once embedded, the jigger lays eggs and creates up to pea-size egg sacks and continues to multiply by laying more eggs. Infections from jiggers can be quite serious and can even lead to death.

Save a Child's Life – Become a Sponsor Today! – www.rafikiministries.org

Thank you to Fathers!



Last month we celebrated Father's Day. We honored our fathers and celebrated fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The role of a father is very important in a child's life. In Scripture, there are many different names used to describe God. The name "Abba Father" is one of the most significant names of God in understanding how He relates to people. The word *Abba* is an Aramaic word that would most closely be translated as "Daddy." It was a common term that young children would use to address their fathers. It signifies the close, intimate relationship of a father to his child, as well as the childlike trust that a young child puts in his "daddy". Our earthly fathers should be a picture of the love our Heavenly Father never stops pouring out on us.



"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

One of our male staff, Uncle Godfrey, is a great example of what a father should be. He is not married and has no biological children of his own, but he serves as a father everyday at the Children's Home. The other day I watched Joel and Jerom tie their shoes and I asked, "How did you learn that?" I had not taught them. They told me, "Uncle Godfrey taught us." Their biological father should have been the one to teach them, but instead he abandoned them. Uncle Godfrey impacts the children's lives everyday as a father figure...in small ways like learning to tie their shoelaces and in big ways like learning how God loves them.



Cultural Centre – Dancing is so much FUN!

The children in our care go through so many hardships in their life. We try to find ways to bring out the joy and happiness in their lives when we have the opportunity. Our short-term missionaries (Tori, Abbie, and Ivy) were going to the Ndere Cultural Centre to experience traditional dancing. As a special treat, our older children also went. During the show dances are performed from various tribes and people from those tribes join in the dancing. We had so much fun!



Brenda dancing on the stage ↑

↑ Brenda, Addadi, Jerom, Joel, Esther, & Fauziya



(Back) Godfrey, Dancer, Abbie, Tori, Betty, Ivy, Victoria, Fauziya,
(Front) Annet, Esther, Abby

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 Tori Denison and Ivy Dunavent, short-term missionaries, arrived safely in Uganda. Pray for opportunities for them to share their faith and to be a help to those that need them. Pray for Abbie Stream, who has returned to the U.S., to have opportunities to share her experiences in order to further God’s kingdom.
- Pray for monthly financial sponsors for our newest children, Winnie, Sophie, Mungu and Tina, 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."