



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

June 2016 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

Matthew 10: 30-31

Meet Baby Florence and Max! Be A Part of Their Story!

The first month of a child’s life – the newborn period – carries the highest risk of death. More than 90 percent of newborn deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. 90% - that’s huge!!! “More than 1 million newborns die on the first day of life, making the birth day the most dangerous day for babies in nearly every country” (statistics from Save the Children).



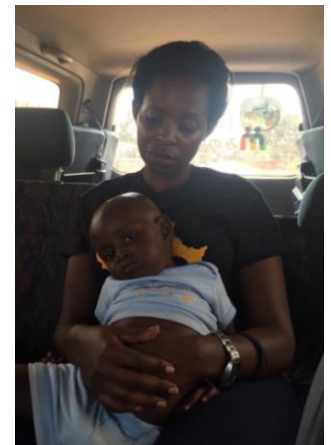
Joseph and I (Sara) were talking to someone the other day about the process of how we get children into the home. The process begins with the police notifying us about an abandoned child. We have built relationships with over 15 police stations in and around Kampala. Many women in Uganda decide to abandon their newborn babies at hospitals, discard them on the streets or in pit-toilets, leaving them to die.

Most of these infants die and a few who are found in time are taken to the police. If the child survives the first few days it is considered a miracle. We believe this miracle is from God! We do not pretend to understand why some babies live and others do not. We have lost two babies in the past. Both of these babies died within the first couple of days after receiving the child from the police. It is heartbreaking.

Max with our Social Worker→

We rejoice when we are able to save a child. Baby Florence and Max were received into the home recently. Baby Florence was only 2 days old. She was abandoned in a bush on the side of the road. Thankfully, someone found her and took her to the police who then called us for emergency care. Max was abandoned a couple of days before Florence. He was found alone, wandering the streets.

The number of abandonment cases in the past years has rapidly increased. One of the problems we face as a ministry is that the need is higher than we can handle. Every day we have to deal with life and death situations, when the police contact us, sometimes in the middle of the night, and ask us to come and collect another tiny one, who has been abandoned, but who is miraculously still alive. If we were to accept every child that we receive a call about, then



we would quickly have over 1,000 children in our care. We are over stretched by the high number of abandoned children, lack of space to take in more children, and lack of financial resources.

Become a Sponsor Today for Baby Florence or Max – www.rafikiministries.org

Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference and saving lives in Jesus' name! We need your help through prayer and financial investment to make an impact!



Short-Term Missionary, Abbie Stream

“My time thus far at Rafiki has been such a joy. I arrived at the beginning of May, and cannot believe how fast time has gone by. Through my journey so far I have gotten so many unique opportunities to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically. The staff here is amazing, and they're all such hard workers. I have been especially touched by Mama Monica. They say she speaks the least amount of English, but I still find our communication to be quite effective. She has such a servant's heart, and is so good with the little ones. I love watching how gentle and kind she is to each and every kid. She is always working in the kitchen, or helping with baby Florence. Her heart and love for every person in this ministry has truly inspired me.

I have gotten the opportunity to meet kids that have previously lived at Rafiki, but now have been resettled in their homes. I loved visiting Emma (Emmanuel) whose family lives in a village and has a little farm with chickens, pigs, and sheep. Rafiki helped the family start this farm, so they could help provide financially. It was really neat to see the happy reunited family, and to see how greatly this ministry had impacted their life.”

Emma in his family's garden →

The kids here are so sweet, and well behaved. It's been amazing to see growth in the kiddos in such a short time span. One of the younger boys, James, has grown from the baby room to the big boy room, and has really played the part. It's really neat to see how he has matured, and now helps with other little ones. I have been touched by each of the kids in different ways. Just to name a few, Hannah has really improved her listening skills, as well as Ruth. The older kids are very well behaved, and are always willing to help with the little ones or lend a helping hand in the kitchen or in washing their laundry.



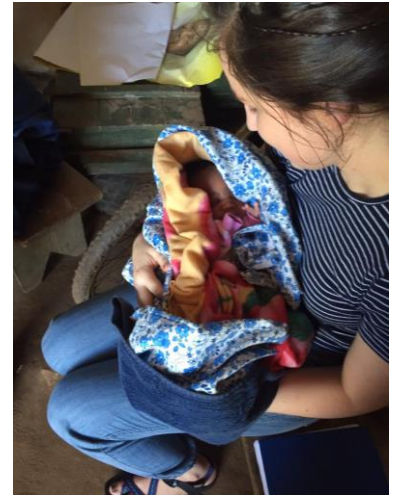
Since I have been here we have gotten the addition of two children, baby Florence and Max. What a blessing each child has been to me, and to each other. Max is now fully immersed in this life, and used to the routine. At first we thought he was a baby, so it is incredible to see how much he has grown physically and just in helping take care of himself. ally and just in helping take care of himself.

Mama Sara and Uncle Joseph have been incredibly welcoming to me, and have invited me into their home on multiple occasions. I have loved getting to play a small part in this ministry, and just see how God weaves everything together here at the orphanage. The African lifestyle is one to be admired. I have learned to bathe kids in minimal time using minimal cold water. I have learned to not be phased by finding ants, bugs, or baby spiders in food we're preparing. I have learned to cut



onions without crying. I have learned to prepare the breakfast of buttered bread sandwiches for every kid in a speedy amount of time. I have learned a few Luganda key phrases I will use every once in a while. I have learned to perfect the African fried omelet. Throughout my time here, I have learned quite a few things, but most of all I have learned to not only embrace, but love the African lifestyle.

God is doing amazing things in this country. In church last week, they showed how much the community has grown physically in 30 years, and how you could not find a café 30 years ago. I love seeing people so passionate about advocating for Uganda. Uganda is a stunningly humid and green country, which I have fallen in love with. God is doing incredible things in this and through this organization and I'm so grateful to be part of it if only for a short time."



↑ [Mama Monica feeding Baby Florence.](#)

[Aunt Abbie with Baby Florence at the police station.→](#)

Ministry Camera Needed

Over the past year, we have had two ministry cameras stolen. We now have one small, point and shoot camera that we share between all of our staff. In the next month, we would really like to purchase a brand new professional camera – at around \$400 USD. The primary purpose of the camera is that we are required to document child cases. This camera will be used by our social worker and staff for documentation. This camera will also help us to make sure that supporters are kept up-to-date with everything that is going on with the ministry. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a camera, please email sara@rafikiministries.org.



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Pray for Tori Denison and Ivy Dunavent, short-term missionaries, who will be arriving the next couple of weeks to serve at Rafiki Children's Home. Please continue to pray for Abbie Stream.
- Pray for monthly financial sponsors for our newest children, Baby Florence and Max, so that we can support all of their needs. Formula and Diapers are VERY expensive in Uganda.
- 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.
- Pray for God's direction for using our land. Pray that many children and families will come to know Christ.
- Please pray for the children by name that are living at the Children's Home: Baby Florence, Max, Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Ivan, Aisha, 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.
- 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 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 thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors,
Rafiki Africa Ministries