



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

April 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up or quit." 2nd Corinthians 4:8



Working hard to get a good group picture! Ha Ha! 😊



**Cocus, Joel, Fauziya, Annet, Jerom, Oscar, Brenda, Joshua
Aisha, Don, Carol, Janat, Abby, Emmanuel (Emma), Esther**



Update on Esther's Home Break-in

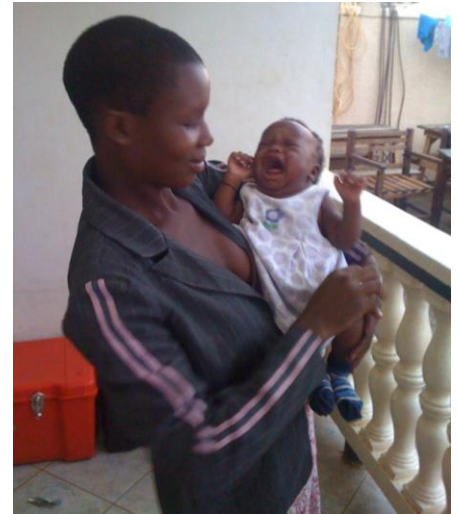
Praise God for his provision! As a reminder from our previous newsletter, Our manager's home was broken into in the middle of the night while Esther and her sister were sleeping. The day after sending the newsletter out last month, Esther received a phone call from friends at another ministry in Uganda donating a TV and refrigerator. Praise God!

Please continue to pray for Esther and her sister as they are recovering from this trauma. Pray that they will feel safe in knowing that the Lord had and will always have His hand over them. By the way, Esther is amazing! God really blessed us with her.

Resettlement of Judith and Baby Hope

This was the only time that I really saw baby Hope cry. → She did not like getting her picture taken. 😊

Our local Police Officer in charge of Family and Child Welfare contacted us regarding 16 year old Judith and her newborn baby girl, Hope. Judith had run away from Northern Uganda with a young man that promised Judith that he would care for her and take her to the city. This is how she ended up in Kampala. Judith got pregnant and had baby Hope. The man, a construction worker, was caught stealing building materials shortly after the baby's birth and sentenced to prison. Judith was left without support and could not pay rent on the apartment that they were living in. She was evicted and sought help at the police station.



When we went to the police station, Joseph and I saw that Judith and baby Hope needed immediate medical attention. Judith had a c-section at one of the poorest hospitals in Uganda. I personally have seen babies delivered there and would not wish any women to have her baby there. The hospital is a teaching hospital...but not like what you would think of in the western world. The doctors and nurses receive little training before starting hands-on training. The doctor that performed the c-section on Judith was still in school and had no knowledge of how to do it properly. She was cut horizontally (up and down incision), probably without anesthesia. This type of incision is not typically used in this day and time because it is more difficult to heal. Due to the fact that the incision was not done correctly, it became extremely infected. We discovered later from Judith's former neighbor that Judith had been in labor for two weeks before being taken to the hospital! Can you imagine? The baby was born septic with pressure wounds on her head. Her neighbor, who is not a believer, told us that "God really loves that girl" because He had given her the help.

We were able to get Judith the medical care she needed and she stayed with us at the Children's Home for a week. When I saw the filthy conditions that she and her baby were living in and her infected incision I literally went off by myself and cried. Although this was an extra expense and not in our normal operating budget, Joseph and I really felt that the Lord was telling us to help this young girl. Although the baby had been born septic she received a good report from the doctor. Judith's incision was cleaned and she was given antibiotics and within a week she was not in pain. We had baby items on hand that we were able to share. We were then able to work with the Police to connect her back to her family in Northern Uganda.

This was our first official resettlement and we have been happy to hear from Judith. She has now been home with her family for one week. Her father, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles were all so excited to see her. They had not known what had happened to Judith and did not know she was even alive. Pray for Judith as she adjusts to being home with her family. Pray that her family will provide the support that she needs to raise her daughter. Pray that she will know that it was because God truly loves her that her physical needs were met. Please also pray that seeds were planted in Judith's heart (and her neighbor's) and that she becomes a believer and teaches baby Hope about Jesus.

Staff Training – Orphan Prevention and Resettlement

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that we are seeking to partner with other Christian organizations and learn more about orphan prevention and resettlement. Praise God for opening doors these past few weeks!

It is amazing how God connects the body of Christ. Joseph and I recently met with a social worker at another Children's Home that works with street boys. As we talked with the social worker, we learned that Samaritan's Purse would be doing a free training seminar on orphan prevention and resettlement that very next week. We were so excited and immediately called the woman in charge of the training at Samaritan's Purse. She gladly offered for us to join the training even though they had already reached their maximum number of trainees. Joseph and I attended the training together and were excited to learn more about best practices in social work and resettlement.

Joseph and I have been praying and know that God is intending for us to move forward with resettling the children that we care for – this will include tracing biological families more extensively and looking for other alternative care options such as fostering or adoption. We know that children belong in families. The Ugandan government is in the process of approving a new Children's Act called the Alternative Care Framework that will require all Children's Homes to take part in resettlement of their children.

This does not mean that our children will no longer be at the Rafiki Children's Home. This means that as a ministry we will work more closely with any family members of the children that we can trace. The children will have more opportunities to visit their extended relatives and even spend time on holiday with them.

It has been overwhelming to Joseph and I who are not social workers to think about all the work that will need to be done. In Uganda, there are no records of births, records of deaths, or list of family members so we face a challenge to trace the existing family members. In Uganda, family members are even given all different last names. For example, Joseph's last name is Kiwanuka, but his brother's last name is Kiyaga, and another brother's last name is Gabunga. This makes tracing families even more difficult.

As we move forward, Joseph and I are excited as this process will eventually enable us to help more children and families. I am amazed that God already had this training through Samaritan's Purse in place for us to be able to attend to receive the knowledge and equipping that we desperately need. As I am typing this, two of our employees – our social worker and manager – are attending a weeklong training for best practice in social work at a babies' home in Kampala.

Please be praying with us as we continue to learn more about the resettlement process and how best we can serve Ugandan children and existing families. Pray with us as we begin to implement these new principles that we have learned.



803 West Noton Street
Pflugerville, TX 78660

YARD SALE THIS WEEKEND! COME SHOP!

Friday, March 28th, 4:00 p.m. 'til Sunset

and Saturday, March 29th, Sunrise 'til Sell-out

Spring Cleaning! Junk for Jesus!

One Man's Trash is Another's Treasure!

Clean out your closets for the Rafiki Yard Sale!

We are gladly accepting donations THIS WEEK of items for the yard sale. Please call Frank Hamilton at (512)771-0681 or Jo Hamilton at (512)750-8047 to arrange drop off of donations or make special arrangements for larger items. Donations are tax deductible!!

UPCOMING CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th 9 am - 5 pm

Location: Parkcrest Middle School (Sponsored by PHS FFA)
1500 North Railroad Avenue
Pflugerville, TX 78660



Sale of items handmade by Ugandan crafters helps to support their families and The Rafiki Orphanage.

Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Pray for Esther and her sister as they heal from the violation of having their home broken into.
- Pray for Judith and baby Hope as they settle back into their home village. Pray for their salvation.
- Pray for the children's well being as they are getting older and beginning to understand their pasts and situations.
- Pray for Sara, Joseph, and the Rafiki staff as they deal with the legalities of running a ministry and orphanage.
- Pray for opportunities to reach out into the community to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for discernment in who God wants us to help. We are continually getting calls asking for help.
- 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 more monthly financial sponsors that will enable the ministry to provide a home for more hurting children.
- 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 God's guidance in raising the children to be godly adults, for direction for the Ministry.
- Praise God for his continuous provision.
- 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@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 Child

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 providing a home for 15 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Janat, Aisha, Emma, Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Brenda, Cocus, Mary, and Joshua. 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