



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

*Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ*

August 2013 Newsletter

Website: [www.rafikiministries.org](http://www.rafikiministries.org)

Blog: [rafikiministries.blogspot.com](http://rafikiministries.blogspot.com)

**"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives." Colossians 1:9**

## Pray for God's wisdom!

I would like to start this newsletter off with a BIG prayer request. We are in need of YOUR prayers and support in the upcoming days and weeks. Our Local Police Officer, who works in the Child Protection Department, contacted Joseph and I this past week. She informed us of TWO babies that are in need of a loving home. One of the babies was just born this past week. The baby's mother is mentally ill and it is believed that the child is a result of a rape incident. The other baby is a few weeks old and is being forcibly taken away from the parents as they have been abusing and neglecting the baby.

We are praying for God's wisdom and peace in the next few days as we make a decision about caring for these babies. We have never received a baby before....youngest received was 2 years old. We also do not have the finances to cover the expenses of having TWO new babies. We would need to hire another Child Care Worker to help with the daily needs. We know that God is Great and is sufficient in His provision! Please pray!

We do not know the complete stories of either of these children and will be meeting with the Police this week. We will need to make a decision quickly – so please pray for God's guidance and wisdom. Pray that God will speak to us clearly and in a BIG way so that we know without a doubt that this is God's plan.

## Message from a Short-Term Missionary - Emily

"I am not forgotten. God knows my name. He knows my name". This song is one that we sing every night for devotion before the kids go to bed. When we pulled up to Rafiki the first day, love was evident on the kid's faces as they greeted us at the van. Becoming Auntie Emily right away made me feel a part of the family. Most of the kids living at Rafiki didn't spend the first few years of their lives in a family. John 14:18 says "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you". The vision of Rafiki is such a picture of the Lord not leaving us as orphans in the world. Spending daily time with the 12 beautiful children at Rafiki is sometimes tiring and frustrating. But most often it's fun and most definitely rewarding. God has rescued and restored these kids and I'm truly blessed to get to be a part of their lives. The staff at Rafiki are not only teaching the kids how to be godly at home but also in the community. There are so many different opportunities to serve during the week that make a huge



▲ Jerom sporting Emily's glasses on their way to church



impact. By us serving, hopefully the kids are learning how to serve and show love to others. I think I'm learning more from the kids than they are from me. They share so willingly (most of the time). They take care of each other and love on each other. Children are a sweet picture of Jesus. Loving someone is wanting the best for someone physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. God's love is definitely evident at Rafiki Africa Ministries."

- **Emily Swanson, Texas**  
(aka Auntie Emily)

▲ Emily in the reading corner at Elizabeth House!



▶ **Uncle Tom and Emma**

## Message from a Short-Term Missionary - Thomas

"This is my second time back in Uganda after serving at in January of 2012. I felt drawn to come back to Uganda because of the welcoming culture of the Ugandan people, God's heart for the people of Uganda, but also because I love the kids at the Rafiki Home so much and had to come see them again.

This time round has been quite challenging, but also very rewarding. Getting to personally know each of the kids, and sow into their lives on a daily basis is an amazing opportunity. Knowing where these kids have come from, and to see them being cared and loved for is beautiful to be apart of.

been able to not only love the kids at the Rafiki Home, but also reach out and engage in the community through meeting and loving people as they are. Some of the places we have engaged in include orphanages, special needs homes, being apart of a street ministry for young boys living on the street, teaching in the local primary school and much more. These ministry opportunities have been a great blessing; not only to engage with the local men, women, and children and have a real positive influence on their lives, but also to be apart of a team of people that support and encourage one another in a family environment is something I have truly appreciated."

I have also had the privilege of serving along side an amazing team of people from the United States, and locals from Uganda. In this team we have



- **Thomas Moroney, Australia (aka Uncle Tom)**

Uncle Tom serving at Elizabeth House ▲

## Kaleb's Garage Sale – Thank You!

Kaleb Kirkland, of Pflugerville, Texas, is 12 years old. He has grown up at First Baptist Church Pflugerville, in the same church where I grew up. As a high school and college student I used to volunteer as a sponsor with the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry and got to know Kaleb and his sister, Karlie. A couple of years ago Kaleb heard about the kids at Rafiki Africa Ministries. His grandmother, Katha Kirkland, said he came across a copy of a Rafiki newsletter and read about the kids at the orphanage and wondered what it meant to be an orphan. His heart went out to the kids and he has wanted to help out ever since. This summer he recruited his mother, Kelly, his older sister, Karley, his grandmother, Katha, friends and neighbors and collected donations and held a garage sale. He is an amazing example of the Bible verse:

***"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1Timothy 4:12***



▲ Kaleb Kirkland



▲ Karlie and Kaleb



▲ Garage Sale

## Surprise Inspection – Praise!

We make every attempt to follow local governmental requirements for operating a children's home. We recently received a surprise inspection by two government officials. We try our best to keep the orphanage clean and organized, but with so many children and others living in the home it is a constant chore. We are very pleased that Rafiki Africa Ministries received a very good report. **They even commented that we had the best children's home they had seen.**

## Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise for God's continuous provision and over \$600 received from Kaleb's garage sale.
- Pray for God's wisdom and peace as we decide how best to help two babies that are in need of a home. Pray for the local Police, government officials, and social workers as they decide the best placement for them.
- Pray for our short-term missionaries as they will be traveling back home this week. Pray for them as they will be experiencing culture shock and as they share about their experiences with friends and family. Pray also for the children and staff as they say goodbye to these wonderful men and women that they have grown to love.
- Pray for our long-term missionaries. Pray for strength and for God to speak through them as they minister to the children, the people of Uganda and as they share their experiences with those at home. Pray for their safety and provision for their needs as they serve outside of the walls of the Rafiki Home.
- Pray for good 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, especially with supplying the finances to pay for another year's rent.
- 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Joseph and I will be back in Texas at the beginning of October till the end of the year. Please email me at [sarainafrika@yahoo.com](mailto:sarainafrika@yahoo.com) 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."

## Thank you to EVERYONE who has been so generous in supporting us!

### God Bless You!

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka  
Directors and Founders of Rafiki Africa Ministries

## 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 providing a home for 13 children (listed from youngest to oldest) 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](mailto:sara@rafikiministries.org)

Donate through PayPal using the link on our website → [www.rafikiministries.org](http://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:contact@rafikiministries.org)  
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