



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

December 1, 2012 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas!



Brenda and Esther's story

As I reflect on Christmas and the end of the year, God has been reminding me of all our beautiful children and their individual stories. Brenda, 7 years, and Esther, 4 years, are sisters that were abandoned by their mother shortly after Esther was born. Their father became ill with AIDS and passed away this year resulting in Brenda and Esther becoming orphans.

Brenda and Esther used to walk miles each day down a dirt path to collect stagnant water in containers and bring it back to their dirt floor hut, boil the water on an open flame to use for drinking or cooking. The day we arrived to bring them home they were out getting water and we took the above pictures. Brenda was 5 years old and Esther was 3 years old. Brenda was very protective of Esther and already acting like a mother.....at only 5 years old. Sitting in the back seat of the car during the drive to the orphanage, although scared herself, Brenda reassured Esther that they were going to live at a good place where they would have plenty to eat. I am very thankful that we were able to help these beautiful girls. Although Brenda is still watches out for her little sister, they are now able to be kids again and feel the security of a loving home environment.



Thanks to your support Brenda and Esther are living at the Rafiki Home. They have a loving family that supports and encourages them. They are able to eat 3 meals a day and go to school. They have Mamas, Daddies, Uncles, and Aunties that cherish them and teach them that they are special. And most importantly they spend time each night worshipping the Lord and learning more about Him. They are adjusting to the loss of their father, who loved them dearly, but they laugh a lot and enjoy playing with the other children. Brenda is blossoming in school.

Child Sponsors Needed

Thanks to your support we have been able to help Brenda and Esther and 11 other beautiful children (13 total). We would love to help more! Please partner with us in prayer as we seek to get more financial supporters to stand alongside us. It currently takes 8-10 sponsors (each sponsor giving \$35/month) to support ONE child. Please remember that their support includes renting the home, utilities, home maintenance, food and personal necessities, medical care, and all the other costs of running an orphanage. We currently have roughly 4-5 sponsors for each child. We would love to double the amount of sponsors that we currently have to reach our goal of 100 monthly supporters. We have a passion to serve these forgotten children.

As you consider your end of year giving, would you please give generously to the Rafiki Children's Home? We would like to help more hurting orphans this upcoming year but we need your help in making this happen.

Thank you, again, for your support and generosity. Together, we are making a huge difference in the lives of abandoned and orphaned children. Christmas is a time of hope and then New Year brings new beginnings. With your help, we can ensure these suffering orphans have a safe and loving home.

Christmas Wish List and Extra Luggage Costs Donations

Don't forget! Christmas is around the corner and there is not much time left purchase gifts off of the Target Wish List to give a special gift to the children at the home. Rafiki Africa Ministries has created a wish list at Target. Please visit our TargetList by clicking on the following link or cut and paste it into your web browser →

<http://www.target.com/TargetListGiftGiverCmd?isPreview=false&status=completePageLink&listId=ieNqCjRlyNlc-Q5zROWXtw®istryType=OT&cumulativeTime=-1&isAjax=false&noOfPings=>

You can find the ministry wish list by going to www.Target.com or in person in any Target store. Just search for Rafiki Africa Ministries with the TargetList advanced search tool or search using the name Sara Kiwanuka.

Would you like to help by paying for extra baggage to take donations to Uganda? We have looked into shipping items, but the shipping cost and import taxes are high and reliability of arrival is not good. It costs \$120 for an extra 50 lb. checked bag. You would be amazed at what can be packed into a suitcase! I took an unassembled high chair in a suitcase for Mary. You might ask why we don't purchase things in Uganda? The cost of material things is very expensive in Uganda. Even with extra baggage cost we save so much by taking things back in suitcases. If you would like to help make this possible then please write a check to Rafiki Africa Ministries, P.O. Box 3526, Pflugerville, Texas 78691 and write luggage on the memo line or donate through PayPal (link included at the end of newsletter).

Rafiki Open House – Christmas Shop for Gifts that Give!

Everyone is Welcome! This Saturday, December 8th

Time: 10am to 2pm (Come and Go)

Location: Frank and Jo Hamilton's Home

803 West Noton Street

Pflugerville, Texas 78660



Abby with the Ugandan women that make the paper bead necklaces

To raise money for the Children's Home, Joseph and I buy beautiful handmade crafts (like the paper beads above) from hardworking women and men in Uganda. These purchases provide employment for Ugandans in the community. They sell their recycled crafts to support their family.

When you purchase the handmade Ugandan gifts, the money not only goes to support the person that made it and their family but also goes a long way in supporting the children at the orphanage. Shop for a cause this Saturday at our Open House! Please come by if you are interested in learning more about how God has called us to help the orphaned and widowed (James 1:27).



Sara and Joseph will be leaving soon!

Joseph and Sara will be in Texas until the end of December and are available to speak at churches, organizations and group meetings to share about the ministry. It is not too late to arrange a speaking engagement or connect us with your church! Please let us know as soon as possible.

Please pray for safe travels as they will be traveling back to Uganda along with their daughter, Abigail, following Christmas at the end of this month.



Focus on a Child – Don, 4 years old

Don's mother died while giving birth to him. His father has lost both of his arms and is disabled so he could no longer care for Don. He was living in poverty and hunger in another orphanage that could no longer provide for his everyday needs. He spent many days without eating.

Don came to the Rafiki Home with completely rotted and decaying teeth at only 2 ½ years old. After seeing a dentist in Uganda it was determined that to prevent a horrible infection he would need to have 16 of his 20 teeth removed. By the Lord's faithfulness and provision, we did not have to wait for the infection to get worse before removing his teeth. This little boy is so tough that the only pain medication he had after the procedure was 2 doses of ibuprofen. He has never once complained. He has dentures to use when he eats.

Don is currently receiving an education at the orphanage with our full-time Ugandan pre-school teacher. Starting in January he will be attending nursery (preschool) classes at the school that our older children attend.

His favorite toy is a car. He loves zooming and vrooming around the house with the other boys. He loves playing with the other children. Don is such a cuddle bug. He loves to be snuggled up on the couch with one of his aunties. He has mastered the sad face; big brown eyes welled up with tears, quivering bottom lip, and all. The worst part is...it works! He loves to give hugs and kisses. He's an easy-going kid that can keep himself entertained for hours with whatever he has on hand.



Pray that Don's heart will become increasingly receptive to the gospel as he grows older. Pray that his memory verses and bible stories will take root in his heart and one-day bear the beautiful fruit of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that Don will feel loved by the staff and other children at the home but ultimately that he will feel loved by Jesus Christ.

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. 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 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 through donations and prayer!

God Bless You this Christmas!

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka

Directors and Founders of Rafiki Africa Ministries

Rafiki means Friend! Thank you for being a friend to the Rafiki Family!

- Pray for safe travels as Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka along with their daughter, Abigail, travel back to Uganda on December 29th.
- Pray for the children at the home to understand the full meaning of Christmas and Jesus' sacrifice.
- Pray for our long-term missionaries. We have 3 missionaries that will be serving with us for the entire year of 2013. 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 when they return home.
- Pray for our ministry as we reach beyond the walls of the orphanage out into the neighborhood and everyone we come in contact to share the love of Christ.
- Pray for good health for the children and those working and serving.
- Pray for more monthly financial sponsors to partner with us so that we can reach more hurting children and share the love of Christ with them.
- Pray for Joseph and Sara as they minister to the children at the orphanage and the full-time staff. Pray for everyone that they come into contact with in Uganda and that they will help more come to know Jesus Christ.
- Pray for our Ugandan team – we currently have 5 full-time staff that work and minister with the kid's daily. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as they minister to the children, for their health, pray that they will be strengthened.
- Pray that Uganda's foundation and government will be based on the Lord. Pray for the leaders of the country as they make decisions for the people. Pray that God's kingdom will reign and his righteousness and justice will rule.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment that God will show his desires for the ministry to the staff.
- Pray that Rafiki Africa Ministries will always be in the center of God's will.
- Pray against any attacks of the enemy. Pray for God's protection over the Rafiki Home and the Ministry.
- Pray for God's continued guidance in rearing these beautiful children.
- Pray that God will be a light in these children's lives and they will ultimately come to know the Lord personally.
- Pray that God will continue to provide for our needs as we grow and that God will be glorified.
- Pray that we will continue to be good stewards of the money we receive for the ministry.
- PRAISE God! "In all things give thanks"...1 Thessalonians 5:18

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: sarainafrika@yahoo.com

Cut and Paste this website into your web browser to donate now through PayPal ▼

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5H9J86JD8LQ3U

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.

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