



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

*Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ*

December 2013 Newsletter

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

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

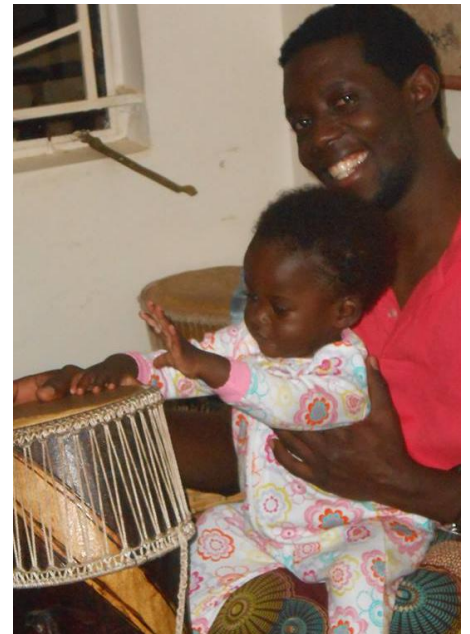
**"Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forgot not all His benefits."** **Psalms 103:1-2**

## Praise God for His Providing for Us EVERY Day!

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays as it reminds us to be thankful for the many blessings that we have. I pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends this past week. Psalms 100:4 says, "Enter his gates with Thanksgiving, and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."

In Uganda, every night during devotions and prayer time the kids, "Thank God for life". In a country like Uganda where people face hardships and death daily, life is something to be thankful for.

The children will most likely never get to meet their sponsors in person but they are very thankful for them and aware of what they do for them. We would like to say, "Thank you" to everyone that has supported us. We are thankful for your prayers and support that make this work possible. We are thankful for the Lord who takes a little money and multiplies it. Every small contribution makes a HUGE difference.

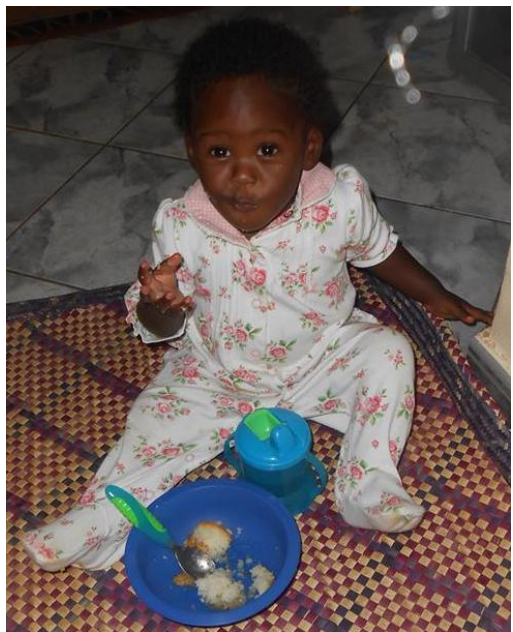


▲ Janat Praising God with Uncle Godfrey During Devotional Time!

The Bible says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" (1st Chronicles 16:34). I want to challenge you this week to thank God for His incredible gift of grace and forgiveness. Thank Him during the bad times and the good times. "Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).



▲ Rafiki kids celebrated Thanksgiving in Uganda! Pictures show what the kids are thankful for!



*"When He [Jesus] was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him."*

Luke 24:30-31

◀ Janat tasting her first piece of birthday cake! ☺

## STILL NEED - monthly sponsors for Janat and Aisha!

As you can see from the photos of Aisha and Janat they are thriving and doing well. Their health has improved so much. Their tummies aren't as bloated. It's amazing the changes in the color and texture of their hair and changes in the expressions on their faces as a result of good food and loving

care in just 2 months! Praise God! It would be a great way to honor Jesus this Christmas by sponsoring one of these sweet girls. When our starving children first receive food they know that someone cares and they get their first glimpse of Jesus!

*"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God... Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*

2 Corinthians 9:11, 15

**Prayerfully consider sponsoring a child for \$35/month.**



**Christmas and Memorial Gift Donations**

**We will mail a card to acknowledge gifts in honor or in memory of someone who is special to you.**

**If you would like to sponsor a child or give a one-time donation please contact: [sara@rafikiministries.org](mailto:sara@rafikiministries.org)**



▲ Aisha (left) and Janat (right) on their first day at the Rafiki home and after 2 months of care.



# Graduation from Nursery School

Rafiki celebrated Nursery School Graduation this past week with 5 of our kids graduating from Nursery School (equivalent to 1<sup>st</sup> grade). This means that starting in January, they will start Primary 1, which means going to school all day. This is a big step for our children.

The school had a fun graduation ceremony where the kids donned caps and gowns and each received a certificate for their hard work in school.



▲ Brenda waving!



▲ Cocus, Annet, Fauziya, Brenda, and Esther holding their certificates!

## Christmas Wish List at Target

Can you believe that the Christmas season is already upon us? We are so appreciative for the Christmas gifts received through our Wish List the past two years. We are excited to continue the tradition for a third year. We have created a wish list of items including new school shoes, toys, and books for the kids. The children were so excited last year to receive new clothes, a special toy, and soccer balls for outside play. We would love to give a special item for each child again this year.

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/ot/list/kKWYX\\_V5oKqKk2Cn6llz-w](http://www.target.com/ot/list/kKWYX_V5oKqKk2Cn6llz-w)

You can find the ministry wish list by going to [www.Target.com](http://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.

It is easier than ever to send a gift. All you have to do is click on the link and make your purchase. You do not have to worry about gift-wrapping it or delivering the items – as the toys will ship directly to Rafiki Africa Ministries in Pflugerville, Texas. If you do not want to shop online, then you can make purchases at any Target store and then deliver them to 803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660. The gifts will then be packed in suitcases and travel with us to Uganda when we return at the end of December. ► **Annet, Abby, Emma (Boy), Fauziya (Back), Carol**



## Other beneficial gifts include:

- LifeWay or Mardel Christian & Education Store Gift cards to purchase biblical and educational materials.
- Chapter books for our older children to read (used or new) –
- Donations to pay for extra luggage (costs \$150 for every extra bag)

## Schedule for Upcoming Craft Shows



▲ Emma and Abby “helped” pack cars and Noah’s Ark sets for our flight to the U.S. ☺

We have brought many beautiful hand-made items from Uganda. When you purchase items from Rafiki Africa Ministries you are helping provide an income for families in Uganda as well helping with the ministry costs to raise our Rafiki kids. We hope you will shop at one of these last two opportunities before Christmas.

### Date

### Time

### Location

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-7pm**

**Christmas Market held by Austin Stone Church**

For the City Center – 500 East St. Johns Avenue Austin, TX 78752

- *The Christmas Market is only made up of non-profit vendors – a great place to shop for gifts that give!*

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-2pm**

**Open House – Including a Special Sale Room**

Jo and Frank Hamilton’s Home

803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, TX

- *We typically do not have space to show everything we have available at a craft show, but at the Open House we have lots of room and will even include a SALE room.*

## Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise that we had 5 of our children graduate from Nursery School. Praise God that they have the opportunity to go to school when many children in Uganda do not have that privilege.
- Pray for our short-term missionaries, Niomi and Amanda. Niomi has traveled back home. Amanda is still currently serving with the Rafiki Team in Uganda. Pray that God will strengthen both of them and renew their spirits.
- 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 our short-term missionary, Niomi, who has traveled back home. Pray for Amanda who is still currently serving with the Rafiki Team in Uganda. Pray that God will strengthen both of them and renew their spirits.
- 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, 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. Sara and Joseph are back in Texas till the end of the year. Please email Sara at [sara@rafikiministries.org](mailto: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 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](mailto:sara@rafikiministries.org)

## Methods for Giving:

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 Frank Hamilton at (512) 771-0681 (USA))  
 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**