



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

*providing hope and love through Jesus Christ*

January 2013 Newsletter

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

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

**“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise:  
give thanks to Him and praise His name.” Psalm 100:4**



Carol, Don, Annet, Joel, Emmanuel (Emma), Cocus, Brenda, Jerom, Oscar, Fauziya, Esther, Joshua, Mary (not shown)

## Thank you from the Rafiki kids!

We enjoyed being in the U.S. but are glad to be back home in Uganda. I cried when I saw the kids and realized how much they've grown and learned since they came to live at the Rafiki home. Thank you for helping us make God's dreams a reality. It is our greatest goal that all hurting and orphaned children in Uganda will have a loving home and learn about His love for us. We so want them to receive salvation through Jesus and to become future leaders.

Joseph and I brought a record number of 23 fifty pound bags with us to Uganda. We borrowed a trailer and pulled it from Pflugerville to the airport in Houston! It was funny to see the looks on people's faces as we drove past and even funnier to see the look on the Skycaps faces when we drove into the drop off at the airport. Can you imagine lifting 23 FIFTY POUND

bags in less than 5 minutes? That's 1150 pounds! The Skycaps were amazing so my Dad tipped them really well. They gave us their business card and asked us to call ahead in the future so they could have a parking place ready for us! 😊 I'm always amazed (although I shouldn't be surprised) that God helps us get through security checks and customs by putting airline officials in our path that are always happy to hear that we have packed things for an orphanage.



The bags were loaded with Christmas gifts from the Target Christmas Wish List and many other gifts that people donated in the months leading up to Christmas. Thank you to the FBC Round Rock Jjajas (grandmothers) for making the kids new blankets with their names on it and hand embroidered pillows. They are beautiful and the kids love them. Thank you to the FBC Pflugerville Sewing Ministry who once again sewed an amazing number of cute and practical clothes for the kids. Thank you to everyone who donated new and gently used clothing, household items, school supplies, toys, etc. etc. etc. Thanks to those of you who contributed to the extra airline luggage cost. The kids are always excited and thankful to get new things because they have had so little in their lives. THANK YOU!

## New Van – Praise God!

Thank you for blessing us with your end of year giving! God takes care of us through His people. Your donations are a HUGE blessing! We have been praying for a 14 passenger van for the past year. Some of you might remember my plea for a new van last year at Christmas time. Remember the math problem that we have not been able to solve? →

13 kids + 7 Ugandan staff + 3 Long-term missionaries + 4 Short term missionaries = 27 people

Current vehicles = 8 passenger van + 5 passenger SUV = 13 seats available

14 extra seats make up the difference that we need for everyone to have a seat and go to church or other places together.

With the end of year giving we were able to purchase a 1999 Toyota van. We had our trusted mechanic check out the van before we purchased it and we were able to get a really good price. The van does not currently have enough seats so we need to add extra seats to make it a 14 passenger van. We need to purchase bumper guards to protect the lights because cars in Uganda drive so close together in what is jokingly called “The Jam” that they tend to bump into each other. We also want to replace the tires. The bumpy and rutted red dirt roads in Uganda are really hard on tires. We have only a little more money to raise...we still need around \$2,000 to do the additional work on the van. Praise God! Please let us know if you would like to help us with this purchase! Any amount will help!

## Staff and Volunteers!

You might look at the numbers above and wonder, “Why do they need 14 adults and only have 13 kids?” Here's why:

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka– Directors of Rafiki Africa Ministries

Joseph- also runs Rafiki Adventures, a safari business that helps provide support for Rafiki Africa Ministries & their family.

Staff: Everyone lives at the Rafiki Home and assists with the kids and running the orphanage.

“Mama” Esther – Rafiki Home Manager, Lives at Rafiki Home and manages the day to day operations of the home.

“Uncle” Godfrey – Full Time Household Maintenance, Cleaning & Laundry, Driving

“Uncle” Moses – Part Time (Also goes to University) Household Maintenance, Cleaning & Laundry, Driving

“Auntie” Sarah – Preschool Teacher & Social Worker

“Mama” Monica – Cooks 3 meals a day 6 days a week

## Long Term and Short Term Missionaries – Raise their own support and live at the orphanage

Provides college students and other adults opportunities to serve as a missionary in Uganda. To share the love of Christ, they serve at the orphanage where they assist with administrative things such as record keeping, the web site, blog, and fund raising, with medical care, cleaning, laundry, supplemental education and childcare. Outside of the gates of the orphanage they serve at the kid's school, at other schools and orphanages that are short handed, on building projects in the community, in the slums, hospitals, and medical clinics.

## Speech Day at Little Rina Nursery and Primary School

- Message from our Ugandan Manager, Esther Nakamwa



Cocus Dancing ►

◀ Oscar graduating from Kindergarten with Laura Beverley (Missionary) and Monica (Rafiki's Cook)

Little Rina Nursery and Primary School recently held a Graduation and Speech Day. All the kids performed dances, plays, poems, and sang songs. The highlight of the day was Oscar's graduation from Top Class (Kindergarten) to Primary 1 (1<sup>st</sup> grade). Oscar is 5 years old and he can read quite well, and he absorbs everything you say, even if it appears that he is not paying attention.



The kids were super cute! Annet, who is in middle class (preschool), led a cute little dance in an exchange with her classmate about meeting each other. Jerom led his baby class (preschool) in the familiar children's song, "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What You See". All the other children danced, sang and participated beautifully. To see Oscar in his cute little graduation suit, dancing with a little girl from his class, and then beaming proudly in his graduation cap and gown made me a proud "Mama"...love him!



◀ Fauziya and Brenda Dancing



Jerom Making a Speech ►

## Sara and Joseph Expecting Baby!

Joseph, Sara, and Abigail made it safely to Uganda a couple of weeks ago. Thank you for your prayers for safe travels.

Joseph and Sara are delighted to share their news that they are expecting a new baby this June. Please pray for the health of Sara and the baby. They have prayerfully decided to deliver this baby in Uganda and are excited about sharing this experience with Joseph's family and all the Rafiki family.



## 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 [sarainafica@yahoo.com](mailto:sarainafica@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

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

- Praise for Joseph, Sara, and Abby arriving safely in Uganda.
- Praise for Joseph and Sara expecting a new baby! Please pray for good health for Mom and baby.
- Praise God for the new van. Pray for finances we need to buy additional seats and safety equipment.
- 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 short-term missionaries as they prepare their hearts to serve in Uganda.
- Pray for good health for the Rafiki Kids. Pray that they "will grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men", just as Jesus did as a child...Luke 2:52.
- 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 our Ugandan team – we currently have 5 full-time staff that work with and minister to 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 God will be a light in these children's lives and they will ultimately come to know the Lord personally.
- Pray that we will continue to be good stewards of the money and gifts we receive for the ministry.
- Pray that God will bless each person and family that gives to our ministry with their time, talents, spiritual gifts, resources, money, and prayer.
- 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: [sarinafrica@yahoo.com](mailto:sarinafrica@yahoo.com)

**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)**

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