



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

July 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” 1st Peter 4:11

Meet Hannah



We welcomed Hannah into the Children's Home on Friday, June 27th. The police contacted Joseph about a little girl that was not being cared for properly. Her mother had died shortly after she was born and her father, a day laborer on local farms, was not able to care for her. He would go out

each day to find work and leave Hannah alone without supervision all day. Can you imagine? Hannah is only 1½

years old. This is just another example of how God can turn a desperate situation into good. Hannah's father, a former Muslim, became a Christian about 2 months ago. He prayed for a way to care for his daughter. She came to us with a Muslim name, but he asked that she be given a Christian name. After meeting her, we chose the name Hannah. We are praying that, like Hannah in the Bible, she will become a strong woman of faith.

Hannah came to us with an extended belly and malnourished. She has only been with a few days but is already thriving in our care. It seems like she has been here forever because she fit right in to the Rafiki family. Hannah is very spunky and immediately started playing and laughing with the other children. We have taken her for a medical check-up and everything is fine except for malnourishment. She becomes very vocal when she sees food. She loves to eat! On the way to the clinic we gave her some bread and she became very tearful when we arrived and thought her bread was being taken away. We are working with her to lessen her fear of not getting to eat.

Pray for Hannah as she continues to adjust to being in the Children's Home. Pray for us to be able to work with her father. Pray that her father will continue in his growth as a follower of Christ.



▲ Short-term missionary, Auntie Beth Ann, helping Hannah drink milk.



▲ Hannah coloring with her new Rafiki brothers and sisters.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring Hannah!

A Message from Short-Term Missionary, Bianca



▲ (Left to Right) Aisha, Fauziya, Abby, Annet, Short-Term Missionary Auntie Courtney, and James.

Oli Otya (How are you?). We have been here in Uganda for over a week now and so many exciting things have taken place. This past week we have visited some baby homes and volunteered our time there by feeding, washing, cleaning, as well as enjoying loving on some cute kids. A good part of our stay here in Uganda we will be doing outreach at several different baby homes. It is always interesting to compare how things are structured at each place. Some are family styled homes while others are institutionalized. I have been encouraged this past week by the different places we visited, for the main goal of each place was to love and provide permanent homes, whether through resettlement, foster care, or adoption.

What I love about Rafiki is that these kids are each other's family. They will grow up with one another and will never be forced



▲ (Left to Right) Uncle Philip, Joel, Auntie Beth Ann, Annet, Carol, Brenda, Esther, Fauziya, and Auntie Bianca.

to leave the home because of age. When a new child comes they are instantly welcomed into the family. Well, leave it to one of the newest and youngest members to teach me a big lesson.

Janat is a young two year old who is cute as a button but as feisty as an African lion. Unfortunately my husband, Philip, and I's instant adoration for her was not easily returned. We are some of the first Aunties and Uncles that Janat has encountered, and in Philip's case, he had three strikes going against him. He was mzungu (light skinned), a male, and had the most terrifying beard on his face. Earlier this week we were all coloring at the table and Philip simply sat next to Janat and her cry quickly let the whole neighborhood know she did not approve of his choice of seat. I, however, took the more knowledgeable approach with Janat. I let her take her time and come to me. When she was in need of a toy, I gave her the one she wanted. When she wanted a bottle, I instantly arose to fetch it. I basically beckoned to whatever her little heart desired. Nonetheless, Janat now lets me hold, clothe, change, bathe, play and offer comfort by her choice. While she does still demand a task from me every now and then, at least she does so with a smile.

Now I'm sure there are many lessons that can be learned from this story, but allow me to share with you what I took from it: unconditional vs. conditional love. How many times have I thrown fits to God or demanded He perform certain tasks to cater to my "needs"? Why do I sometimes only go to God when I am in want of something and only return gratitude of thanks after



▲ Auntie Bianca coloring with James and Hannah, and some of the kids.

the deed has been performed? I am extremely grateful that we serve a God whose love for us is unconditional. His love is constant, regardless of my selfish nature. My prayer for this week at Rafiki is that I want my love to be unconditional for each child here, despite my lack of sleep or patience when they disobey. I want to extend a love here to the children in Uganda that lets them know that unconditional love can exist with no strings attached.

**Mukama Akwagala (God loves you),
Auntie Bianca**

P.S. – Janat has warmed up to Philip some. While she still does not let him pick her up, she has smiled several times around him and has enjoyed playing with toys together on multiple occasions.

Meet Christine Kaakyo

Assistant Administrator/Childcare Worker



We are excited to announce that we have hired a new employee to serve alongside us in the Children's Home. Christine recently finished her degree in tourism. To help support our family, Joseph has a safari tour business called Rafiki Adventures. She has been assisting Joseph with safaris for close to a year now. We noticed right away that whenever she was at the orphanage the kids loved hanging out with her and started calling her Auntie Christine.

As our numbers have grown, especially with younger children, we needed to add to our staff to care for the children. We were waiting for God's direction in finding someone that would fit in with our Rafiki family. Both of us at separate times on the same day felt confirmation from the Lord that we were supposed to offer Christine a full-time position with the ministry.



▲ Christine with her fiancé, Martin, calming a scared Hannah on her first day.

Christine is an amazing Christian woman and her heart for children is evident in everything that she does. She gave her life to Christ in 2009. She grew up in Western Uganda with her parents, 3 brothers, and a sister. She will be getting married this December to her fiancé, Martin, who works as a Sales Manager at Regal Paints.

Christine wears many hats at the Children's Home including being Assistant Administrator, Childcare Worker, and Volunteer Coordinator. She has quickly become a member of the family and we all love her.



▲ Auntie Christine helping the kids with their homework after school. Yes! We buy a big bunch of bananas each week for our "bunch"!

Glimpse of Baby Junior



▲ Junior being picked up at the Police Station

Our newest little boy, Junior, is 10 months old and only weighs 10 lbs. He is extremely malnourished. We were contacted by the police on Saturday, June 28, about a baby boy that had been abandoned. We quickly packed a few clothes and formula and went to the police. Baby Junior's story is heartbreaking and we will include it in the next month's newsletter. Please keep him in your prayers as he needs to gain weight quickly, otherwise he is surprisingly healthy. We are feeding him every 2 hours (even at night) and he receives IV antibiotics twice a day. It is much like caring for a newborn.

More about Junior in next month's newsletter!

Labor of Love!

Katha Kirkland recently called my mother in Pflugerville, Texas and the first words out of her mouth were, “Jo, do you remember me saying I would never have another garage sale?”. My mother is in total agreement with Katha’s opinion about garage sales so she just laughed! Katha was calling to say her friend, Al Lovelady, wanted to sell his home and he had enough items that they decided to do another garage sale to benefit Rafiki. You may remember that Katha’s 12 year old grandson, Kaleb, instigated the first garage sale fund-raiser after hearing about our “orphans”. He also asked his grandmother to do a spaghetti lunch fundraiser for Rafiki last fall. He has a heart for helping kids and has inspired the help of others in his endeavors. Well, the Kirkland family and Al recently held another garage sale and Rafiki was the recipient of a large donation. Thank you!

I really love the fact that even though some things aren’t much fun to do, and a lot of hard work, they become a labor of love when you do them for a good cause and alongside people you love. I am quite sure that Kaleb’s love of helping kids was inspired by his grandmother’s example of serving others.

Thank you for your partnership and support!

We feel very blessed and honored to have sponsors that support us in taking care of the children that God has placed in our care. Thank you for helping us pay another year’s rent. And thank you to our Christian Landlords for appreciating the work that we do as a ministry.

We also thank those of you who have helped our short-term missionaries raise the funds to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for our Children’s Home Assessment this past week. It went extremely well. We were given a license to be open for 6 ½ years before having to renew. The usual license is for only 5 years. We were also given authority to work in Kampala and another district close to where the orphanage is located. To us this is a huge blessing!
- Praise God for Christian landlords and for enabling us to pay another year’s rent upfront!
- Praise God that the severe stomach virus that everyone at Rafiki has endured in the past weeks has run its course.
- Pray that our newest children will quickly adjust to their new home and that their malnutrition will not have long term effects on their physical development.
- Pray for Bianca and Philip as they return to the US. They have served with us for one month.
- Pray for our short-term missionaries, Beth Ann, Courtney, Clemi, and Lindsay as they serve with Rafiki this summer. Pray that God will direct their path, protect them, and lead them to opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 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 financial sponsors that will enable the ministry to provide a home for more hurting children, and cover the costs of the 5 little ones that we have added to our Rafiki Family in the past few months.
- Pray that God will give us his wisdom and guidance for a future home for Rafiki. At this time we are renting but trusting God for the funds to buy land and build. Please join us in praying because our home is pretty crowded.
- 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 supporters 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 at 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 18 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Baby Junior, Hannah, James, 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)
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Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries