



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

May 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.” 1st Corinthians 15: 3-5

Happy Easter! Jesus is Alive!

I have to share this funny story with everyone. During the week before Easter, we were reading the Bible story about when Jesus washed the disciple’s feet on the days leading up to the Resurrection (John 13:3-5). I asked some of the kids, “Why do you think Jesus washed the disciple’s feet?” Immediately, I got a response from Annet who said, “Because the disciples stepped in animal poop!” and then Joel countered with, “No, because Jesus loved them.” I couldn’t help but laugh! I thought they were both good answers!

After going to church on Easter Sunday, we enjoyed a delicious Easter meal cooked by Mama Monica, our amazing cook. We ate local food including chicken stew, metoke (mashed, cooked plantains), and groundnut sauce (peanut sauce). We all took an afternoon nap and then the kids had an Easter egg hunt. The kids are still talking about searching for the eggs in the Children’s Home compound and finding “sweeties” (candy). It was such a relaxing day and I am thankful that Jesus died on the cross for us to be able to live life to the full (John 10:10)!

Kids are on Holiday!



↑ Mama Sara, Esther and Annet

I LOVE holidays because that means more time with the kids and LOTS and LOTS of playtime!



↑ Oscar



↑ Carol



↑ Don and Jerom



↑ Esther



↑ Esther



Yard Sale Raised \$1340

The Rafiki Yard sale was a huge success! We might have had the most donations ever! My parents were so overwhelmed with all of the donations that they called in recruits from church friends and neighbors to help put everything out. Thank you to everyone who helped, who donated items, and who shopped!

← Getting ready for the yard sale

“For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.” Psalm 27:10



Police Officer,
James, and
Mama Sara →

← James



Introducing Baby James

On April 1st, we received a phone call from our local Police Officer in charge of Family and Child Welfare. She told us that there was a little boy that had been abandoned and asked if we were willing to take on another child. We have had a bed open for a little boy for awhile now and have been praying that God would reveal in His perfect timing the little boy that needed that bed and a home. After arriving at the police station and hearing James' story, we knew that this was the little boy God intended for us to help.

James was abandoned at the end of December. A woman who was believed to be his mother asked someone to watch him for a few minutes while she went to the nearby store to buy a diaper (many people can only afford 1 diaper at a time so they sell them individually). The woman never returned so the police were contacted. The policewoman handling James' case decided to care for him herself, along with her husband and children in hope of tracing the family members and resettling James back with his family. They did not have a name so the policewoman gave him the name James. After lots of searching and three months had passed, the policewoman had found no new information regarding James' mother or other family members. We were then contacted to take care of James.

James is shy at first but once he gets to know you he opens up. He is a sweet little boy and has an infectious giggle. The doctor estimated that he is around 1½ years old. The police told us that when he was first abandoned he had scars from what looked to be severe beatings. Thankfully the physical wounds have healed but please pray for his emotional healing.

Sponsor James today!

Prayerfully consider sponsoring little James and allow God to use you to redeem James' story. If interested, you can sponsor James on our website or by filling the attached reply form and emailing a copy to sara@rafikiministries.org.



Aisha and James →

Remember these photos?

The photo on the left is the day we picked up Brenda and Esther. When we arrived at their hut, we discovered that the girls had gone to a stagnant pool of water to collect water in their plastic jugs for the day. We walked down the long trail to find them. They were both dressed in rags and were filthy. Their mother had abandoned them and their father was ill and couldn't care for them. He died shortly after the girls came to live with us. We are so thankful that God has provided a home for them at the Rafiki Children's Home. It gives us great joy to rescue children like Brenda and Esther and to see over a period of time how much they blossom with good care and the love of the Lord!



↑ Brenda and Esther (Sisters)
Before Living at Rafiki Children's Home



↑ Brenda and Esther
Running and Playing – Being Kids

Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for this holiday time for the kids to enjoy rest and playtime.
- Praise God for enabling us to care for James. Pray for James as he continues to adjust to his new home.
- Pray for new monthly financial sponsors that will enable the ministry to provide for James and other hurting children.
- Pray for our short-term missionaries that will be arriving in Uganda in the next month. Pray for them as they prepare to come, pray for travel mercies and praise God and pray for those who have helped send them. Pray as God brings our summer missionaries together and uses people that have never met to further His kingdom. Pray that their time in Uganda will be fruitful and have great eternal value.
- 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 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, especially with supplying the finances to pay for rent, for utilities, for medical care, for food and maintenance, for keeping our vehicles in great condition, and the many other costs of caring for so many.
- 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. 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 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

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)**
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Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!

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