



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

March 2017 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.org

Blog: rafikiministries.blogspot.com

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.” Matthew 6: 31-32

When the Lord gives Vision, He also makes Provision!!

God has provided in amazing ways!!! We have always been nervous and uncertain about how to approach people for money, but God has done the most amazing thing. He has placed Rafiki Africa Ministries on the heart of others. People have given, not because we asked, but out of obedience to God. Their giving has strengthened our faith tremendously! We see the way God can use others to confirm that we are right where we need to be.

Countless times we have asked our supporters for help, and countless times God has answered our need, sometimes even before it was asked. This has made it easier to, then, to forge ahead in seeking support from others. There are Biblical models of support raising and giving. Paul describes his needs being met by believers other than the ones with whom he was working. (2 Corinthians 11:9) Remember the poor widow who gave two mites out of her poverty? (Luke 21:1-4)



↑ Auntie Christine (Manager of Rafiki Africa Ministries Children’s Home) is holding Baby Florence. God has provided in so many ways for Baby Florence since we received her at the Children’s Home after she had been abandoned at only two days old. She is now 8 months old!!

“And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.” 2 Corinthians 11:9

Support raising presents many challenges. We must continually present our needs to others. Asking for money is hard! We must ask people who have not physically been to Uganda to trust us with their giving to use it wisely and in a manner pleasing to God. We have several widows on fixed incomes who have to watch every penny they spend, but they give generously to Rafiki. We know that God has laid it on their heart to give, and we so admire their faith in giving, but it is difficult to accept when they have so little. We have had child sponsors, who have unexpectedly and without notice stopped sending their monthly donations. We understand that most of our supporters are giving above and beyond their tithe to their home church, and sometimes circumstances arise where they cannot continue to give, however, it leaves us wondering if there is a prayer need. Approaching these matters can be awkward.

We feel blessed to have a broad support base. We are growing as a ministry and as we look to build a Children's Home on our ministry land we will need more finances. We are looking to the future to partner with both individual givers and churches. Depending on the circumstances and needs of his ministry, Paul adapted, and we are prepared to do the same.

In mid-October 2017, Sara Kiwanuka (Director and Founder of Rafiki) will be traveling to the states to share about the ministry with current and future supporters. We know that October is months away but we are looking to plan Sara's schedule to maximize her time while she is in the US. She is planning to be there for two months. She will mostly be staying in the Austin, Texas area with family but is willing and able to travel to other cities or states. Please share information regarding Rafiki Africa Ministries, with whomever you think would be interested in hearing about us. Sara's schedule is currently open and she is looking to plan speaking engagements and fundraising events. Please contact Sara@rafikiministries.org to schedule an opportunity to share at your church, bible study group, or event.

Some of you may be considering a calling to missions while others may be considering being part of a sending team. Both are needed!! Perhaps you have clearly heard God calling you, but you are feeling fearful regarding the financial side of things. Let me remind you of something someone reminded me of – we serve a God who uses gold to pave streets. (Revelation 21:21). It can take as much courage and faith to give, especially sacrificially, as it does to serve as a missionary. Maybe you are not feeling called to go, but I challenge you to seek God's guidance and wisdom regarding financially supporting someone else to go. Your obedience WILL mean more than you realize!

Thank you for all you are doing to help us advance the Kingdom of God, reach the unreached and tell the untold!!



↑ We serve in the Kakiri community where the Rafiki land is located. This family will benefit from our ministry programs once we are able to build and move to the land. These children will be able to attend school for the first time.

Rafiki Africa Ministries has some urgent needs we would love your help with. Please pray about what you could do to help with these needs?

- **Rent** for one year is due on May 1st. We are praying about moving to a larger facility as we are currently maxed out on space and have been for several years. Rent will cost \$7,500 USD/year or \$625/month.
- We currently are in need of 30 new monthly **child sponsors** at \$35/month to cover our monthly living expenses for the children that we care for. This is a tangible way to impact the life of a child and provide them with a loving, safe home and opportunity to receive an education.
- Our ministry vans see a lot of wear and tear on the bumpy, dirt, pot-holed filled roads of Uganda. This means we have to replace our tires much more frequently than we would if we lived in the U.S. We are in need of new **tires** for 2 ministry vehicles – cost \$200/per tire (need 8 new tires = \$1,600 USD total).

“When Jesus saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.’” Matthew 9: 36-38

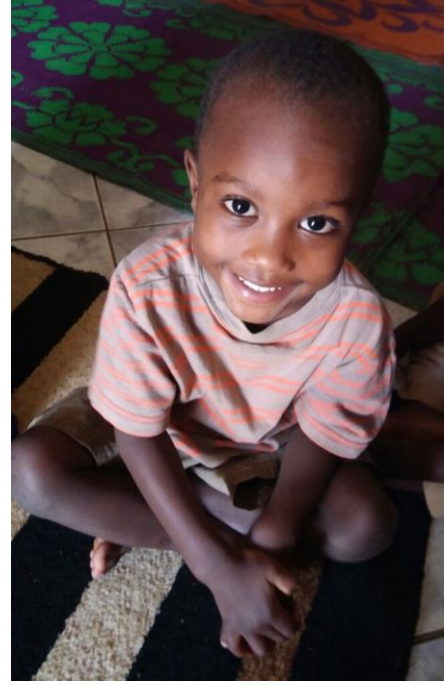
Introducing our Newest Children!!



Hope



Jacob



Andrew

Over only a period of three days, we welcomed Hope, Jacob, and Andrew at Rafiki Children's Home. When we take a child into our care, we take a step of faith that God will send us sponsors to meet their needs. It is easy for us to become overwhelmed when we receive a new child in the home because they require so much individualized care. An abandoned child comes with an unknown past and history. Most often the child has been abused and neglected. Many times they are malnourished and starving. Due to their experiences, they do not trust strangers. It takes them time to adjust and feel safe. These early childhood experiences impact the rest of their lives. Pray with us as we learn how best to serve these children, how to show them Christ's love, and how to make them feel safe again

Fundraiser Yard Sale! Come Shop!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Friday, April 7, 4:30 pm to Sunset

Saturday, April 8, Sunrise to Sell-out

Spring Cleaning! Junk for Jesus! One Man's Trash is Another's Treasure!

Clean out your closets and garages for the Rafiki Yard Sale!

All donations are tax deductible!! We will gladly accept donation items to sell in the yard sale. Come Shop! Look for the Hot Pink Signs! Please call Frank Hamilton at (512) 771-0681 or Jo Hamilton (512) 750-8047 to drop off donation items or make special arrangements for larger items.



Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for His vision and His provision!
- Pray for God's provision for the current ministry needs including tires for 2 ministry vehicles, rent that is due for the Children's Home, and an increase in monthly child sponsors.
- Pray for our newest children – Andrew, Hope, and Jacob. Pray for God to give us monthly partners to help with caring for their needs.
- Pray for Sara's future trip to the U.S. in October. Pray that God will link the ministry to more individual and church partnerships.
- Pray for the people of Uganda, where half of the population is a child. Pray for those who are so destitute that they must abandon their families in hopes that their children will be "taken in" and survive. Pray for the Ugandan government as they seek ways to protect children and help the abandoned and orphaned children of Uganda. Pray for Children's Homes, like Rafiki, who struggle with finances and means to support as many children as possible.
- Pray that God will provide the funding needed to move to our new land. Currently, we need \$250,000 to complete the first part of our building phase so that we can move the Children's Home permanently to our land in Kakiri. This will enable us to serve more children and families in the community.
- Please pray for the children by name that are living at the Children's Home: Baby Florence, Reagan, Max, Junior, Hope, Ruth, Hannah, James, Jacob, Andrew, Janat, Ivan, Aisha, Jerom, Joel, Addadi, Esther, Brenda, Fauziya.
- Pray for these children by name as they settle into their family homes: Matronah, Blessing, Farouk, Michael, Winnie, Tina, Mungu, Sophie, Pony, Annet, Acram, Shakirah, Carol, Don, Emma, Oscar, Cocus, Edwin, Mary, Joshua, Jimmy, Sharifa, Jennifer, Rebecca, and Bright.
- Please pray that the Rafiki staff and short-term missionaries will be strengthened physically, emotionally, and mentally as they care for the children.
- Pray for God's direction in making decisions about the best possible care for each Rafiki child and for the use of our land. Pray that many children and families will come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- Praise God for the children under our care who carry their Christian faith to their families and serve as a witness to them during family visits and when they are resettled. Pray that God gives them boldness in sharing their faith.

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 Children's Home running. We are currently supporting 42 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Florence, Reagan, Blessing, Tina, Max, Junior, Mungu, Matronah, Michael, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Hope, Jacob, Andrew, Rebecca, Bright, Jimmy, Jennifer, Ivan, Farouk Acram, Sharifa, Aisha, Shakirah, Emma, Carol, Don, Sophie, Winnie, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Edwin, Brenda, Cocus, Addadi, Mary, and Joshua. Some of these children live at the Rafiki Children's Home, while others live with immediate or extended family and Rafiki helps with school fees and other necessities. 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 us by email: sara@rafikiministries.org

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)
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Webale! (Thank you!) We thank God for you!
Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries

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, ..."
- **SERVE** on the mission field and come to Uganda. (Romans 12:6-8)
- **CONNECT** the ministry with local churches, rotary clubs, schools, businesses, friends and family.
- **SPEAK UP** and tell their story. Proverbs 31:8-9 says "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, ..."