



Mary – age 6 years

RAFIKI AFRICA MINISTRIES

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

March 20, 2010 Newsletter

“And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’” Luke 3:11 ESV

Welcome to Our Fifth and Very Special Child!

In our last newsletter, I mentioned there is a possibility we would be getting a new girl in the home. We received Mary into the home on March 10, 2010. She has been in the home a week now. Mary is 6 years old and has cerebral palsy. Both her mother and father abandoned her when they discovered she has a disability. Her

grandmother took it upon herself to care for Mary, but does not have the ability to continue caring for a child with special needs.

Part of the vision that God gave me for Rafiki Africa Ministries is that we would provide a family-style home for orphans and children with special needs. Many Ugandans do not know much about disabilities – whether physical or mental. Many Ugandans believe that when someone has any kind of disability, they are possessed by a demon. A lot of times they will take the child to the local witchdoctor and when they realize there is no cure, they will abandon the child. I have seen horrific things done to children in Uganda with disabilities. I saw one young boy at a hospital where I was volunteering that had been put in a closet and left to die.



Mary's home in Acholi ghetto.

Attached is a picture of Mary's previous home where she lived with her grandmother. The home is located in a ghetto called The Acholi Quarters. Her family is of the Acholi Tribe, from northern Uganda. They are war refugees. This small mud-thatched house with a tin roof is home to several families. Each family has one room with no electricity or running water. Water has to be fetched from the nearest water hole. Many of the families that live in the Acholi Ghetto work in the rock quarries. The rock quarries are very dangerous and many people are killed daily from rock landslides.

Children with cerebral palsy have slow development, feeding problems, communication difficulties, restless behavior, and their hearing or sight may be impaired. In Mary's case, she is able to walk but very unbalanced. She wears diapers. Mary cannot talk but is able to make noises and cries when she is hungry. I am trying to teach her baby sign language so she will be able to communicate better what she needs or wants.

When we first received Mary into the home, I was wondering how the other children would react to seeing a child with disabilities. The first day, they didn't seem to know what to do with Mary. Now, they are playing with her and including her. I took the attached picture while the kids were eating a snack of peanuts. (In Uganda peanuts are called G-nuts meaning groundnuts.) The girls were seated together in our living room. Mary cannot feed herself but I could tell that she wanted to eat some of the peanuts. I was about to get up to feed her some when Annet, our youngest girl in the



home, started hand feeding Mary the peanuts. I just had to take a picture (at left) of them because I thought it was so precious. ☺ Annet is our little helper in the home. She always takes it upon herself to help anyone and everyone.

We are thankful to God and for His provision for us!

**God Bless You!
Sara Hamilton**

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

Please Pray:

- ▶ Pray for God's continued guidance in rearing these beautiful children.
- ▶ Pray that the children continue to adjust well in the home.
- ▶ Pray for our staff that takes care of the children daily – that they will be strengthened and continue to show God's love to the children.
- ▶ Pray that God will be a light in these children's lives and the children will ultimately come to know the Lord personally.
- ▶ Pray that God will continue to provide for our needs as we grow and that God will be glorified.
- ▶ Pray that we will continue to be good stewards of the money we receive for the ministry.
- ▶ Pray that the applications for non-profit (USA) and non-government (Uganda) status will be approved.

Please Give:

Prayerfully consider making a one-time donation or become a monthly sponsor. You can sponsor a child for only \$30 per month OR any amount you wish. Every little bit helps keep Rafiki Africa Home running.

You have the opportunity to sponsor one of these precious children who is living in the Rafiki Africa Home. 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. You can sponsor a child as a family or as an individual. If you decide to sponsor a child please notify me by email: sarinafrica@yahoo.com

You can choose to sponsor Sara Hamilton (me) or any of our staff members. I will soon be posting our staff member's information on our website: www.rafikiministries.com

Monetary Donations Needed to Purchase:

- Children's shoes for church \$10 each
- Rugs for the bedrooms (need 3) \$50 each
- Washing Machine \$500
- Electric Razor for cutting kid's hair \$40
- Pressure Cooker \$50
- Mixer \$50
- Fan \$100
- File Cabinet \$100
- Safe/Lock Box \$45
- Bookshelf \$50
- Classroom - Tables and Benches \$100
- Classroom - Large Chalkboard with stand \$75

Educational Posters \$10
School Materials \$20
1 Year Work Permit in Uganda - \$100
Hearing Test for Mary - \$100

Donations Needed

- *New or gently used children's clothes (average year round temperature 80° days, 60° nights)
- *Age appropriate toys
- *Children's movies on DVD
- *Arts & Crafts – construction paper, beads, crayons, scissors, glue, etc.
- *New or Good Used Laptop Computer
- New or used projector (for speaking engagements in the U.S.)

*The items above may be taken to Uganda in a suitcase.

Please contact Jo Hamilton at 512-750-8047 to arrange a time to drop them off in Pflugerville , Texas

Donations can be made payable to:

Rafiki Africa Ministries

Donations can be mailed to:

Rafiki Africa Ministries
P.O. Box 3526
Pflugerville, TX 78691-3526

John 15:12-13 NIV

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

We are in the process of applying for our tax-exempt status with the internal revenue service. We should have approval within 3 to 4 months. Once approved all donations will be tax-exempt for the donor and a tax-exempt form will be issued. This exemption is retroactive from the date of filing the 501©3. For further clarification, contact Frank Hamilton at (512)771-0681.

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