



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

August 1, 2011 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.com

Psalm 127:3 "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."



Baby Abigail Has Arrived!

Joseph and I are happy to introduce our new baby girl. She was born on July 7, 2011 at 1:20am. She weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 18½ inches long. Her full name is Abigail Sanyu Kiwanuka. Joseph had a dream before we became pregnant of us having a little girl with the name of Abigail. Abigail means "father's joy" and Sanyu is a Luganda name meaning "happy". Joseph and I first met each other at Sanyu Babies Home in Uganda so we thought that name was appropriate to use as Abigail's middle name.

I praise about how God provided for our new family. Joseph and I do not have health insurance and were concerned about being able to afford the cost of delivering a baby and were undecided as to where we would have the baby, in Texas or in Uganda. We prayed together and presented our concerns to the Lord. We know that God is in control of everything and has always provided for our needs. I will be honest and tell you it was difficult for me to not worry but God kept reminding me that He is in control. We prayed that if God wanted us to deliver in Texas that He would provide the way. He led us to a wonderful Christian doctor who offered to deliver the baby. We are so thankful that God allowed us to have the baby in the U.S. because I ended up having a C-Section, I had a high fever following the birth, and Abby had a low body temperature. Praise God! The day we got home from the hospital we found out that all the finances had been taken care of for the hospital, delivery, and for medical care. God is AMAZING!!!

Introducing our Newest Little Boy, Cocus!!

Here is Cocus' story told through an email from Kelsey, a nursing student and volunteer this summer:

"There is one little boy that I will never forget. I believe we were in the eastern side of the Namuwongo slums holding a medical clinic at a school there. When we arrived I went to sit down on the curb and a little boy that looked to be about 3 or 4 years old came up and sat down on my lap. He is absolutely precious. I began talking to him even though I was sure he wouldn't understand much of what I said. Then I wrapped my arms around him to give him a big hug and felt an unusual mass on his back. I turned him around to get a better look at what I had felt. When I lifted his shirt I discovered a huge mass on the upper portion of his spine. I had no idea what it could be, but I knew it needed to be addressed. So after cuddling him a bit longer while the clinic got set up, I took him over to where the rest of the team was waiting. Mama Sarah (from Loving One by One Ministries) saw him and immediately said, "Is that Cocus?!" She told me that 6 months ago when they did a medical clinic there in January,

they had met this little boy, but he was in horrible condition. She called Sherry (director of Loving One by One) over to see him, and Sherry told me the rest of his story.

Little Cocus is actually 6 years old and has TB of the spine. When they met him in January the TB had rendered his legs completely useless so he couldn't walk, and the mass on his back had open, infected wounds that were covered in flies. They took him to the International Hospital of Kampala where they found out he has TB of the spine, and a course of treatment was decided upon. The family was to bring him to the hospital every day to receive treatment that was paid for by Loving One by One. He began receiving treatment, but then his father stopped bringing him when his wife had a new baby and things became too busy. Sherry found out that his treatment had been stopped so she went to talk to the family. After explaining to the parents that he needs to complete his entire treatment in order to get well, the father promised to take Cocus to the hospital every day, and in exchange the family would receive a week's worth of food when they brought the medical record to the ministry showing that he was continuing with his treatment. A few months later the father became very ill with AIDS and could no longer take Cocus for his treatment. Cocus' mother will openly tell you that she doesn't like him so she didn't want to take him to the hospital for his treatments. She likes her other children better. When asked why she doesn't love her son, she told the workers it's because of his disability. He's too much work. When I heard that it made me sick.

Sherry was overjoyed when she saw Cocus a few days ago because he seemed to be doing so much better. He is walking perfectly fine, the wounds on his back are healed, and he has a radiant smile that she had never seen. When they met him, he wouldn't smile at anything. But now he is so full of joy when I played with him. Once I picked him up, he would wrap his arms around my neck and did not want to be put down. I fell in love with this helpless, sweet little boy that day."

Joseph and I were not expecting to take in any more children while being away so we were surprised when we strongly felt God telling us to help this little boy. Cocus (pronounced coke-us) is from a slum in Kampala that is one of the worst I have ever seen. Cocus' home consisted of one small room with a dirt floor, no windows, and just one bed for the parents. The children all sleep on the floor. Cocus suffers from Tuberculosis (TB) of the spine and needs the proper treatment to heal.

Mama Esther, who is the Rafiki Orphanage Administrator, and is in charge during our absence, visited Cocus' home and spoke to his parents. The father genuinely cares for him and wants the best for him. The mother does not want Cocus anymore and sees him as a burden. Both parents decided it would be best for Rafiki Africa Ministries to take over guardianship of Cocus and give him the medical treatment he needs. Please pray for Cocus as we start this treatment. Pray for total and complete healing. Praise for Loving One by One Ministries in Uganda that made us aware of his situation and is paying for his medical costs. This little boy has a very sad story but I know that God has great plans for him and has placed him in the Rafiki Home for a reason. Please continue to pray for Cocus as he adjusts to his new home.



▲ Kelsey is shown in the pictures above with Cocus, who has TB of the spine.

Do not worry about the other children in the home. This type of TB is not contagious and will not affect the health of the other children.

If you wish to financially sponsor this precious little boy, Cocus, please email me at sarainfrica@yahoo.com.

Please Keep Jerom in Your Prayers

Jerom developed an abscess several months ago. We took him to the doctor and they drained and cleaned the wound. He healed fine and we thought that was the end of it. Since then he has developed more abscesses and we don't know why. We consulted a missionary pediatrician through email and asked his opinion. He mentioned a hereditary disease called Chronic Granulomatous Disease, but it is very rare and difficult to diagnose. This disease is very serious and people with it have a shorter life expectancy. Joel, Jerom's biological brother, has also had abscesses before. Please pray for both Jerom and Joel as we seek medical care and try to get a diagnosis and treatment plan. Please pray that they do not have Chronic Granulomatous Disease and can be easily treated. The pediatrician at the clinic we go to is only available one day a week. Please pray that Esther is able to take Jerom and Joel to see the pediatrician soon. Pray for Mama Esther and our other staff as they care for them.

Praise! Don's Dental Procedure Went Well!

Don took a couple of days to adjust to not having teeth but he has healed and is doing well. Don loved getting special attention from our volunteers who bought him ice cream and other soft foods to eat for the first couple of days. The other children noticed that Don was getting special food because of his teeth and they wanted to join in. Brenda, one of our little girls, started saying that her teeth were hurting her and she wanted some ice cream to help it. Kids sure can be sneaky! Haha! 😊



▲ Thank you to our summer volunteers, Kelsey and Michelle (shown in the picture above). You have been such a blessing to us and we are sad to see you leave!

Please Pray for All of the Kids and The Staff!

Please pray for everyone at the Rafiki Home. Esther called yesterday to report that most of the kids are sick with some type of virus causing flu-like symptoms. At first she thought they were teasing because they all started complaining when they woke up and didn't want to go to school. Please pray that Esther and the other staff members do not get sick and that God will provide strength and stamina as they care for the children.

If you are interested in serving at the Rafiki Home, please email me at sarainafrika@yahoo.com for more details. We are in need of volunteer nurses and teachers.

Thank you to EVERYONE who has been so generous in supporting us!

God Bless You!

Sara Hamilton Kiwanuka
Director and Founder of Rafiki Africa Ministries

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

- Praise for our new baby girl, Abigail! Thank you for all of your prayers!
- Praise for Don as his dental procedure went well and he has healed! Pray that his permanent teeth grow in healthy.
- Pray for our newest little boy, Cocus, as he settles into the home and gets into a routine with the other children. Pray for his health and that he will be healed of the TB in his spine. He will receive daily injections to treat the TB.
- Pray for Jerom and Joel, that we can diagnose the cause of the abscesses and that they will be completely healed.
- Pray for our volunteer, Kelsey, as she has left Uganda and is traveling to Kenya with other nursing students from University of Mary Hardin Baylor (Belton, Texas) to serve on a mission team.
- Pray for our administrator, Esther, as she is in charge while we are away. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as she ministers to the children and staff.
- Pray that Uganda's foundation and government will be based on the Lord. Pray for the leaders of the country as they make decisions for the people. Pray that God's kingdom will reign and his righteousness and justice will rule.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment that God will show his desires for the ministry to the staff.
- Pray that Rafiki Africa Ministries will always be in the center of God's will.
- Pray against any attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for God's protection over the Rafiki Home.
- Pray for God's continued guidance in rearing these beautiful children.
- 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.

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 \$30 per month OR any amount you wish. Every little bit helps keep Rafiki Africa Home running. We have 12 children currently in the home (listed from youngest to oldest) 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. You can sponsor a child as a family or as an individual. If you decide to sponsor a child please notify me by email: sarainafrika@yahoo.com

Donations can be made payable to and mailed 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.

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