



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

December 1, 2011 Newsletter

Website: [www.rafikiministries.com](http://www.rafikiministries.com)

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**

## Christmas Wish List

Christmas is such a special time of year for so many of us. I am reminded of special family traditions like visiting my grandparents on Christmas Eve and anxiously waiting for Christmas morning. Like many of us, the focus of most of my Christmas memories is around family. Uganda has many of the same Christmas traditions that we do: family gatherings, big dinners, Christmas trees and gift giving. Christmas time for children living in an orphanage can be quite different. Sometimes it can be a reminder of the fact that they do not have a traditional family and, for some, Christmas brings memories of disappointment and neglect.

**We recently spoke to all of the kids this last month on Skype and asked each one of them what they would like for Christmas. Joshua, our oldest little boy, said to me, “I would like some new pencils and for Mama Sara, Uncle Joseph, and Baby Abigail to come home”. I was touched by Joshua’s reply. I thought he would ask for a toy car or a new soccer ball since the old soccer ball doesn’t hold air anymore. Instead of asking for a toy, all of the children asked for something very practical such as school supplies or new clothes. All of the kids wanted a Christmas tree.**



Now is your chance! As you are enjoying all of your Christmas traditions this year, I want to ask that you start a new one, by giving a gift to an orphan. This year we would like to give each child at the Rafiki Home some clothes, school supplies, and a small toy. It will be great to see a smile on each of the kid’s faces when they are called by name and receive a special gift from someone far away. They will know that someone halfway around the world cares for them and took the time to make their Christmas special.

Rafiki Africa Ministries has created an Amazon Wish List. Please visit our Amazon Wish List by clicking on the following link or cut and paste it into your web browser → <http://amzn.com/w/VSDXW4QSA4F>

It is easier than ever to send a gift. All you have to do is click on the link and make your purchases. You don’t have to worry about gift-wrapping it or delivering the items – as the toys will ship directly to Rafiki Africa Ministries in Pflugerville. They will then be packed in suitcases and travel with me to Uganda when I return in early January. Thank you for your support!

There are items listed that will make perfect gifts for the children and they are educational. We included some sensory toys to help Mary. We also included some basic items for the kids that we are in desperate need of, such as children’s vitamins, underwear, socks, and moisturizer for Joshua’s eczema. Please send an email or mail a note and let a child know that you are thinking of him this Christmas.



Picture of Joseph taking a nap on the way to the Houston airport  
(He is using Abby's diaper for a pillow and her blanket to keep warm...haha!)

## Joseph leaves for Uganda

Joseph has a two-year visa but it only allows him to stay in the United States for 6 months at a time. We applied for an extension and planned to return to Uganda in January. However, we found out Monday that immigration services will not be able to review his file in time. Our amazing travel agent, Peggy, was able to change Joseph's flight with no penalty costs. We spent the last couple of days preparing for his unexpected return. We packed 6 fifty pound bags of things for the orphanage and the kids...clothes, shoes for each child, blankets, towels, and sheets, etc. We even packed a small artificial Christmas tree so that the kids could have their wish. We were exhausted by the time we drove to Houston for his flight yesterday (thus the nap with the baby blanket ☺). It was sad for me to see my husband go but we feel at peace about this situation and know that God has a plan for everything. We may not know what His plan is right now and why we are meant to be apart for Abby's first Christmas but we have faith in a BIG God.

Although Joseph is sad to leave so soon, he is excited to be going back to his home country. Please pray for our family as we are spending the Christmas season apart. I will be speaking and sharing about the ministry during the month of December. Pray for me to have strength to care for our daughter, Abby, and do everything that God has planned for the ministry.

## Please keep Mary in your prayers

Our Ugandan manager, Esther, took Mary because she refused to eat and could not keep food down. She was diagnosed with a bacterial infection and given antibiotics. Esther has been trying to get Mary to drink lots of liquids but Mary is still having trouble keeping anything down. Please pray for Mary not to get dehydrated and to receive enough nutrition to heal from this infection. She is naturally very thin and has lost weight due to this illness. Please pray for our staff as they take care of Mary who also suffers from cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Abby is modeling a paper bead necklace



## Christmas Shopping at Open House

**This Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Time: 9am to 1pm (Come and Go)**

**Location: Frank and Jo Hamilton's Home**

**803 West Noton Street**

**Pflugerville, Texas 78660**

Still have some Christmas shopping left to do? Who doesn't? Why not support Rafiki Africa Ministries with your Christmas shopping this year? Come by the Open House this Saturday from 9am to 1pm to find presents that will give the gift of LIFE this Christmas! We will be selling beautiful handmade Ugandan crafts.

We will be selling hand made African crafts made by local women in Uganda at craft shows in the Austin, Texas area to raise money to support the Rafiki Home in Kampala, Uganda. 100% of the proceeds will be used to help support orphaned and destitute children in Uganda. We will be selling a variety of crafts such as baskets, wallets, purses, scarves, jewelry, dolls, wood spoons, etc. Please come out to support the Rafiki Home!! The schedule for our craft shows is listed below.

## Schedule for December Craft Shows

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am-8pm	Jingle Bell House
Friday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am-7pm	2701 Bear Springs Trail, Austin, Texas 78748
Saturday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am-4pm	
Saturday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>9am-1pm</b> <b>*Changed time</b>	Open House – Jo and Frank Hamilton’s Home 803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, TX
Saturday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	8am-2pm	Hendrickson High School Breakfast with Santa 2905 FM-685, Pflugerville, TX
Saturday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	10am-4pm	Vista Ridge High School Band Booster’s Holiday Bazaar 200 South Vista Ridge Blvd., Cedar Park, TX

## Upgrading your phone?

Hey Friends! If you are planning to make an **upgrade on your phone** this year, consider sending your old one to help here in Africa. Each phone regardless of make or age is worth much more here in Africa than the US. It will help us communicate with our staff and short-term missionaries. Email us at [sarainfrica@yahoo.com](mailto:sarainfrica@yahoo.com) if you wish to donate your old phone.

## 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Joseph and I will be in Texas for the rest of the year and are available for speaking engagements and functions.
- **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."

**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!

- Pray for Mary to be healed from a bacterial infection and that she will be able to keep down food and water.
- Pray for Sara as she shares with others about the ministry at speaking engagements and other events.
- Pray for our administrator, Esther. Pray for strength, God's guidance, and wisdom as she ministers to the children and staff.
- 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 come to know the Lord personally and receive salvation through Jesus Christ.
- 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 for the country of Uganda, that the leadership will look to God for guidance in running the country.
- Thank God for all of the many blessings and miracles we have received in His provision for Rafiki Africa Ministries and Joseph and I personally.

### **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: [sarinafrica@yahoo.com](mailto:sarinafrica@yahoo.com)

**Cut and Paste this website into your internet browser to donate now →**

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=5H9J86JD8LQ3U](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5H9J86JD8LQ3U)

If you would prefer donate by mail please make checks payable 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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