



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

June 15, 2010 Newsletter

Website: www.rafikiministries.com

“For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” Jeremiah 29:11



▲ Rafiki Home's Second Volunteer

Emily with Annet on the ferry crossing the Nile River to Murchison Falls National Park.

Murchison Falls National Park

During Emily's stay at Rafiki Home we had the opportunity to take Emily and the kids to Murchison Falls National Park. Murchison Falls is a beautiful nature preserve with lots of animals. We were able to see elephants, monkeys, hippos, giraffes, crocodiles, etc. As we were waiting to take a ferry across the Nile River, we were walking around with the kids. Annet had a juice box in her hand. As we were walking back to the van, a HUGE baboon came out of nowhere and snatched Annet's juice box from her hand. The baboon did not hurt Annet, but as you can imagine, she was scared of the baboons and monkeys for the rest of our trip. The baboon was bigger than her! I was scared too!! I just hope she doesn't have a fear of monkeys the rest of her life.



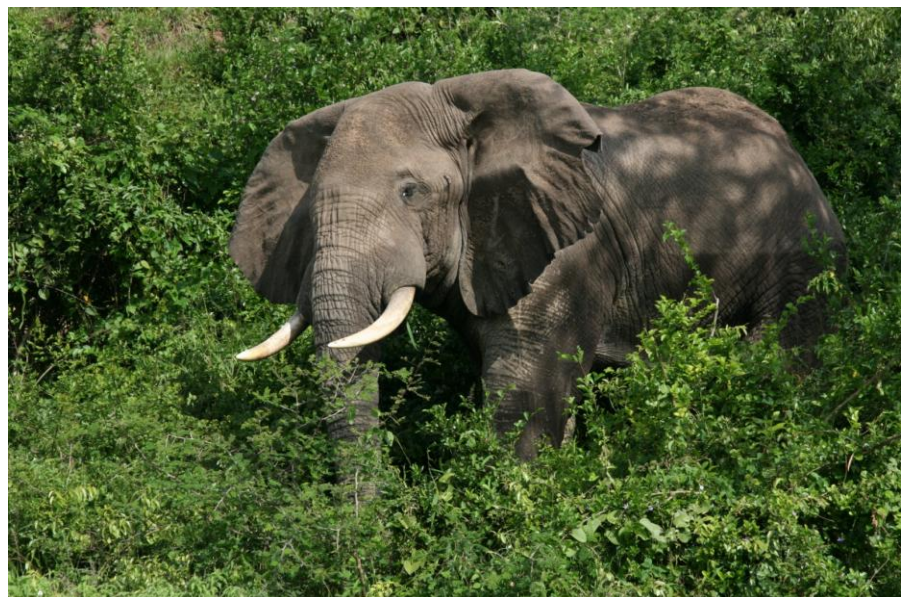
▲ Baboon Eating A Banana

This is the type of baboon that stole Annet's juice box.



▲ Globe at the Park

We showed the kids where they live and where Mama Sara (me) is from - America! Don't they look cute in their new clothes? We were blessed to be able to take the kids to Murchison Falls. As we grow and add more children, trips like this will be more of a challenge.



▲ Elephant

The kids loved the animals!



◀ Rafiki Kids Learn to Swim

We took the kids to a local pool for their first swimming experience. At first, they did not know what to do but after we showed them how to swim and play in the water – they absolutely loved it!

Nappies and a Compost Pile

Christina brought a lot of donations for the Rafiki Home when she came in May as a volunteer. Along with her donations, she brought cloth, non-disposable diapers for Mary, our child with Cerebral Palsy. Diapers (we call them nappies here) – both disposable and non-disposable – are expensive in Uganda. We were very thankful for the donation of cloth diapers. Some of the ladies from my home church in Pflugerville, Texas sewed clothes and even sewed diapers for Mary. A college student from my church donated some extra thick, extra large diapers and diaper covers with growing room for Mary...thank you Sarah! It's hard to find diapers to fit a six year old! Mama Rachel, one of our staff members, did not know that they were non-disposable. I just assumed she knew how to use them. I discovered her throwing them away. We have a compost pile where we burn all of our trash. As you can imagine, Uganda does not have any kind of trash disposal or recycling system.

When God told me I was going to start an orphanage in Uganda, I never imagined myself digging through trash to rescue dirty diapers! That just goes to show you that you never know what God has planned for you. I think God must have been having a good laugh watching me go through the trash. I know I sure was laughing. I have a new appreciation and a healthy respect for anyone who has ever raised children and especially kids with special needs! 😊

“The Family God Uses” Garage Sale and Lemonade Stand

A group of young families from First Baptist Church Pflugerville committing to being families that God uses sponsored a garage sale and sold lemonade to raise money for Rafiki Africa Ministries. The families donated and collected an entire fellowship hall of items to sell and the children sold lemonade. We have been blessed by and appreciate so much everyone that worked so hard on the service project and everyone that donated items to be sold.

So Much Need in Uganda

I feel that there is always soo much need around me. It is difficult for me to see the hardships that people go through here in Uganda. During the rainy season, one day we were driving to church and saw that many homes were flooded and the people were walking in about 3 feet of water. The water is no longer there because we are in the dry season but every time we drive by those homes I remember that day. I know a child living at another orphanage who remembers living in those conditions. So many children here live such difficult lives.

When we go into town, we see kids begging on the streets. The other day, I saw a 3-year old walking in the busy streets alone begging for money. Every time I see these children I want to pick them up and take them with me. I know God has placed these street children on my heart for a reason. I am so thankful that God is helping some of these precious kids through your help in providing for them.

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

God Bless You!

Sara Hamilton

Director and Founder of Rafiki Africa Ministries

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

Please Pray:

- 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.
- Pray that the application for non-government (Uganda) status will be approved.

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 5 children currently in the home – Annet, Fauziya, Mary, Joel, 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

Monetary Donations Needed to Purchase:

Used Van - \$9,000 total
Sewing Machine - \$150
Special High Chair for Mary - \$200
Dressers for boys & girls room - \$100 each
Extra mattresses for volunteers - \$60 each
Classroom – Bookshelf for school supplies \$100
Classroom - Tables and Benches \$100
Classroom - Large Chalkboard with stand \$75
Educational Posters \$10
School Materials \$20
1-Year Work Permit in Uganda - \$100
Plane Ticket to the U.S. - \$1700

Donations Needed:

*Digital camera – The camera we use for the ministry was stolen from my purse when I was in town.
*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, markers, scissors, glue, etc.
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 in Pflugerville, Texas.

Donations can be made payable to and mailed to:

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

“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.” John 15:12-13 NIV

We are a non-profit organization in the State of Texas. 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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