



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

June 1, 2011 Newsletter

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

"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Matthew 11:28

## Rafiki Open House

You're invited! Please bring your friends and family!  
Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 11am to 4pm (Come and Go)  
803 West Noton Street  
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Directions: From the Pflugerville Traffic Light at Pecan Street (Hwy 1825) and 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Go South on 10<sup>th</sup> Street past First Baptist Church – Turn Left on Noton Street – 4<sup>th</sup> House on the Right (Located about a block from First Baptist Church Pflugerville)

Many of you have been asking about our next Open House. Joseph and I will be coming back to Texas the beginning of June. We know that we will be very busy once the baby is born (that is an understatement...haha) and will not be able to have an Open House for some time so we have decided to have one when we get back. This will be a great opportunity for us to share with YOU, our supporters, about the wonderful work God is doing in Uganda.

We're bringing lots of Uganda handmade crafts from Uganda and will have them available for sale. They make great gifts! Joseph and I will be available to answer questions about the ministry and give updates on the Rafiki Home and kids. We will have child sponsorship information available if you are interested in financially supporting the children at the Rafiki Home. We will be serving African Coffee and Tea. Feel free to call my cell phone at (512) 413-2476 if you have any questions or need directions.

### Don and Carol – New to The Rafiki Home



◀ Esther, our administrator, with Carol (age 2½). Carol was abandoned by her mother and her father is a drug addict.

▶ Don's (age 2½) mother died while giving birth to him and his father is disabled and cannot care for him.





◀ 15 boys of all ages share these two mattresses each night at the Children's Home where Carol and Don were living before they came to live at the Rafiki Home.

We received two new children into the orphanage on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We found out from a friend about a children's home that was in desperate need of assistance. The home, called Young Achiever's Home, is run by a young Ugandan woman. She was taking care of over 20 children on her own with no outside help. Many of the children in her care were abandoned or used to live on the streets of Kampala begging for food.

When Joseph and I visited the home, we saw the horrible living conditions. The children told us that they were blessed if they were able to eat once a day. Joseph and I had been praying about receiving new children into the home and for God to lead us to the right children that needed our help. After visiting this home, we felt God telling us to take in their two youngest children, Carol and Don. We wish we could open our doors to all of the children.

Please pray for Carol and Don as they adjust to their new home and family. I have attached information for Carol and Don to this email if you are interested in sponsoring one of these beautiful children.

### Rafiki Staff

Many people have asked us questions and been confused as to how the ministry operates. Rafiki Africa Ministries manages an orphanage based in Kampala, Uganda. We are a 501©3 non-profit organization, which means that we are a business that does not intend to make a profit. We are also called a non-governmental organization (NGO) because we do not receive funding from any government and are a private organization. We do not receive any help from the U.S. or Ugandan government. We are not paid to foster children. We are not an umbrella organization, under another larger ministry, and are not affiliated with any other ministry. We run solely on donations from supporters, primarily from the U.S.

Throughout the week, in addition to devoting a lot of time with the children, Joseph and I spend a lot of time working on all the administrative responsibilities that are required when running an organization. Although we are not supported financially by the government we must comply with both U.S. and Uganda non-profit organization legal requirements and regulations. We spend a great amount of time meeting with legal authorities, working with and training our staff, keeping financial records, corresponding with supporters, keeping records on each of the children, etc. We also help other ministries with medical clinics, work with mission teams and volunteers. We supervise the running of the household, run most of the errands, and go to the farmers market weekly for food.

As the ministry grows and because we need to spend time each year in the U.S. for fundraising and ministry awareness God has provide a wonderful staff of hard working and self-sacrificing adults to care for our precious children. Currently in

the home, we have 7 adults (plus 2 summer volunteers) and 11 children. Imagine all the cooking, cleaning and washing that has to be done on a daily basis. Joseph and I would be able to do all of these daily chores, take care of the children, and accomplish all of our other ministry responsibilities without the help of our amazing staff. Many people have expressed their concern that Joseph and I will be away from the orphanage for 7 months this year. I want to reassure everyone that we are leaving the children and the home in very capable hands. We have 5 wonderful Christian employees other than Joseph and myself that live and work full-time at the home.

We have an amazing administrator, Esther, who will be in charge while we are away. Joseph and I will be in constant contact with Esther through Skype and email each week. We have a teacher, Christine, who is in charge of class time for our youngest children that are not enrolled in school. She does morning activities with them to teach them their ABCs, numbers, colors, shapes, etc. to prepare them for school. Monica is our full time cook. Cooking in Uganda has to all be done from scratch each day. Pre-packaged foods, frozen foods, and canned goods, are not readily available and are very expensive. Everything is bought fresh at the local outdoor market, washed, and prepared. We have to boil all our water for drinking. We use an outdoor charcoal stove and an indoor gas stove for our cooking. The charcoal stove is much less expensive to use and we try to use it as much as possible. Cooking on a charcoal stove takes a lot longer to cook food than a gas or electric stove would take. We do not have a dish washing machine and dishes have to be hand washed after each meal. Washing dishes alone can take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours after each meal. We have 2 other employees, Godfrey and Moses, who are in charge of cleaning the home each day and washing all children's clothes, bedding, towels, rugs, etc. Our home has a total of 10 bedrooms and 5 full bathrooms that have to be cleaned daily. The African dust and red dirt is horrible and as soon as the rooms are clean they are already coated in dust and dirt. We have a washing machine that was donated by one of our amazing sponsors. It has been a huge blessing!! We wash at least 3 to 4 loads of clothes daily. Some things are hand washed. We do not have a clothes dryer and everything must be hung out to dry on a clothes line and then collected at the end of the day and folded to be put away. Drying clothes can be a challenge during the rainy season! Godfrey and Moses are responsible for getting the kids safely to school and back home each day. All of our staff assists with the children throughout the day.

This summer, we have two nursing student volunteers from Texas staying at the home to assist our staff and spend time loving on the children. They will be educating our staff on CPR and first aid basics. They will also be teaching the children weekly scripture to memorize. We are blessed to have these volunteers helping this summer.

Even with 5 full-time employees, there are frequently days that Joseph and I work a 12-hour work day and do not get time to ourselves until all the children are in bed for the night. There are many weeks that we do not take a day off. Anyone who has children or takes care of children knows that being a caregiver is a full time – 7 days a week, 24 hours a day job. Although our staff lives at the orphanage we encourage them to take a day off each week to get away. If you would like to sponsor one of our staff's salaries, please let us know. They work for room and board and receive a very small salary each month for their personal needs. At this time we can only afford to pay most of them a little less than \$100 per month, which is way below minimum wage in America, but is actually considered quite generous by Uganda standards for their job descriptions.

We know that the children will miss us while we are away (and of course we will also miss them greatly) but they will continue to be loved, cared for, and all their daily needs will be met. We will be able to communicate with the children through skype. Joseph and I feel that these next 7 months in the U.S. will be a good time to share about the work that God is doing in Uganda, raise awareness, and gain more support for the Rafiki Home. We would love to be able to do more in Uganda and help more children. We will be available at the Open House on June 11<sup>th</sup> so please come with all your questions. We can not wait to see everyone again in Texas.

**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! Both of our nursing volunteers, Kelsey and Michelle, have arrived safely in Uganda. They have already been a great blessing to the kids and staff at the Rafiki Home.
- Pray for Esther, as she manages the orphanage, that God will give her strength and wisdom in making decisions.
- Pray for safe travels as Joseph and I travel to Texas. I will be 35 weeks pregnant.
- Pray the flight is not too tiresome for me and everything goes as smoothly as possible.
- Pray for our two newest children, Don and Carol. Pray that they will adjust well to their new home.
- Pray for Joseph's grandmother as she heals from a broken leg. Pray that she will have enough strength.
- Pray for Mary who has cerebral palsy, and takes medicine to control seizures.
- Pray for the current situation in Uganda following the February 18<sup>th</sup> presidential elections. 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, especially while we are away.
- 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 11 children currently in the home (listed from youngest to oldest) Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Brenda, 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](mailto: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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