

Newsletter April 18, 2010

Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing Hope and Love through Jesus Christ

(Be sure to view the photo page at the end.)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”.

Joshua 1:9

Children begging on the streets

One of the hardest things for me to adjust to in Uganda is seeing children begging on the streets. When I walk into downtown Kampala , there are children everywhere begging for money and food. The younger children sit on the ground holding their hands out for money. The older children walk on the major road begging from people in their cars. It's common to see older children taking care of their younger siblings. I have had children beg me to take them to America and mothers ask me to take their children.

The mothers of these children are usually teenagers themselves. The fathers are nowhere to be found. The mothers help support their families by selling fruits such as bananas or mangoes that are grown locally. If you walk into town at night, you will see the mothers and children sleeping on the verandas. They sleep close together for safety and to keep warm.

Boy selling cabbage in the market

We go to the open market once every week to buy everything needed for the Rafiki Home. On my last trip to the market, I met a young boy selling cabbage. He helps his mother sell their produce. He was the sweetest little boy. I am constantly surprised at the sight of young children working. Many children have to begin working at a young age to help their families.

Rafiki's Staff

Joseph Kiwanuka is the Co-Director of Rafiki Africa Ministries.

In primary school (elementary school), Joseph made charcoal and sold it to pay for his school fees and clothes. Even though it was challenging, he was able to complete primary and secondary school and then go on to university to study business management. He is the oldest of 6 siblings and was the first of his siblings to attend university. We met during my second mission trip to Uganda . He was working with a mission organization called Empower a Child and has extensive experience working with mission teams in Uganda . Attached are photos of Joseph playing drums for children at Sanyu Babies Home and Joseph talking to a group of boys at a Remand Home for juvenile offenders. He has been invaluable in helping to work with the local authorities to start the orphanage. The kids call him Uncle Joseph.

If you or your family would like to sponsor Joseph or any of our other staff members, please let me know by email: sarainfrica@yahoo.com.

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 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 that our our staff 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 becoming 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. We have 6 children currently in the home – Annet, Fauziya, Mary, Joel, Joshua, and Tanya. 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

You can choose to sponsor Sara Hamilton (me) or any of our staff members. Please check out our website for more information: www.rafikiministries.com

Monetary Donations Needed to Purchase:

- Children's shoes for church \$10 each**
- Mosquito Net for a Child's Bed \$20 - We need one for Mary's New Bed**
- 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**
- Plane Ticket to the U.S. - \$1700**

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, markers, scissors, glue, etc.**

***New or good used laptop computer**

***Used cell phones with charger that are still in working condition (we can replace SIM card)**

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 a non-profit organization in the State of Texas . 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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Children Begging on the Streets of Kampala, Uganda



Boy selling cabbage at a market



Joseph Kiwanuka – Sanyu Babies Home (Left)



Remand Home for Juvenile Offenders and Teen Orphans (Right)

