



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*

*From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!” (Psalm 22:23-26).*

Greetings from Joanne Colvin in Uganda,

We are praising God for rescuing more children and bringing them to live at the Rafiki Village with us. For those of you who have been to our Village you know the beauty and peace of this tropical setting. For those who have never made the trip, we say, “come!” Spend a couple of weeks, a couple of months, or even a couple of years with us. You will praise God for what He is doing for teenage girls and children of Uganda through Rafiki.

## **Praise God for new families—new brothers and sisters**

God is increasing our flock. We now have fifty-two children who call Rafiki Village Uganda home. Our seven families are thriving physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Most recently we have welcomed Innocent, Carol, and Joyce who are our newest family in cottage seven. Kathy and Nicolas joined Grace House to bring that family to six. Sandra and Derek joined Jerusalem House to bring the family to eight. John is with Canaan House; we are happy for Emma to have a brother and no longer be the only boy among seven girls.

## **Praise God for extended school classes and new teachers**

Rafiki Home Office wisely decided to extend two of our pre-primary (preschool) classes. In Uganda, we extended the pre-kindergarten class to three hours at the end of March. We barely noticed the extra one hour during that first week. It took about two weeks before WE realized how much more our children are learning with the additional hour. Now we have more time to help them with the alphabet, math, unit themes, and science. Our new teacher, Auntie Irene, is especially well-suited for this class and the students have embraced her as their new teacher. Auntie Irene was a secondary teacher without employment when she was referred to us through the Church of Uganda. She had only taught young children in

Sunday school, but God was gracious to help her, our center director, and me to see that she would do well with this class. She was ostracized by her family when she became a Christian and has never known the fellowship possible in a Christian ministry. Irene is thriving, just like her students. Of course, God is proved right by His wisdom to bring her to us, and we are praising Him.

Our kindergarten class was extended to four hours just after Easter. The biggest thrill for our ten students is the opportunity to eat with the older students (Primary One class) at lunchtime, and our five national teachers. Our kindergarten teacher is another delightful young woman, Ruth. Ruth is the cousin of a primary teacher who has been with us for the last year. We are grateful to have two male teachers in our school already, providing male role models for our young students. Our fifth Ugandan teacher is Ritah, who has just recently been promoted to the primary level. All of our teachers have expressed the calling of God to teach at Rafiki and to work in a ministry rather than a higher paying job with prestige. We praise God for teachers called to minister to the children of their homeland.

## **Praise God for healthy children, girls, and staff**

For the very first time, all of the girls enrolled at the girls' center returned after the term break! Praise God! At the RCC recently one of the children came down with what we thought was a stomach virus. Suddenly another child became sick, and then another. Simon, the third one is only one-year-old, but has been at Rafiki for most of his young life. His stamina and general good health helped him to recover fairly quickly from what turned out to be a bacterial infection. Then his sister Sarah became sick. Sarah is smaller than Simon even though they are the same age. We thought

they were sick with the same infection, but it turned out that Sarah had something different from Simon. Each time a child becomes sick at Rafiki, "Mommy-Doctor" Carolyn is the one to carry our little ones into Kampala to see our wonderful physician. The ride is an hour-and-a-half without traffic jams, and longer with them, which is usual. We praise God that we did not have a contagious disease spreading through our fifty-two children! We also praise God for the good nutrition and stamina that each child develops in his healthy lifestyle here at Rafiki Village. One more praise is that a doctor is coming! Tyler Anderson, a physician's assistant, is coming with his family in August. *Please pray for the Anderson's support to be adequate by August and for God to call every member of the Anderson family to Uganda, including wife Kim, and their four children: Josiah, Keidi, Maggie, and Clara.* You can "meet" the Andersons at the Rafiki web site at [www.rafiki-foudation.org](http://www.rafiki-foudation.org) by clicking on ROS in Uganda.

*Please continue to pray for our dear friends, the Coiners.* Stuart continues with chemotherapy while living in San Antonio with his wife Marsha and daughter Melanie. Marsha is helping us with the school curriculum at the Home Office while caring for Stu. Melanie is getting all her paperwork together to begin college in the fall, a year earlier than expected. Lisa Coiner is doing well at Covenant College, in a pre-med program. *Pray that all the family will experience God's love and faithfulness as they continue to press on to honor God in their circumstances.*

### **Praise God for furloughs when I can see you in person**

Hint: My furlough schedule has room for more presentations if you let me know in advance.

June 5-12 Bern, Switzerland

June 13-16 San Antonio, Texas

June 16-19 Phoenix, Arizona

June 20-July 19 San Antonio, Texas

Praise God from whom all blessing flow!



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