



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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"Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land" (Proverbs 25:25).

Greetings from Joanne Colvin in Uganda, East Africa.

Dearest friends,

How I wish I could adequately describe the beauty of central Uganda, specifically at the Rafiki Village! The rainy season is upon us, encouraging the lush character of Kampala and its surroundings to burst forth. As I sit in my house at the Rafiki Village, I see new fruit trees growing up as if they were products of time-lapse photography. The trees were a donation to our Village and I am at an advantage, having them almost in my back yard. The rain has also provided more electrical power for the whole of Uganda, which is completely dependent on water in the Bujugali dam. For those of you in arid and dry places, I do apologize but promise that I have not forgotten you in my prayers. Having recently visited Kenya, I am keenly aware of the problems associated with limited rainfall. The natural world suffers when rain is not forthcoming. More importantly, the people suffer, especially in Africa, from lack of drinking water especially. Can you imagine not having water to drink? That is only one of the great difficulties for many residents of Sub-Sahara Africa. This explains the fact that dehydration is one of the leading causes of death here. *Please pray for rain in Kenya and other arid areas of Africa.*

A Distant Land

Nairobi, Kenya, is not distant from me, but is for most of you. I was delighted to have the opportunity to visit my old friends and acquaintances in Nairobi, Kenya, a few weeks ago. When I left there in 2003, to relocate in Uganda, there were only foundations for children's cottages at the Rafiki Village. Now there are sixty-eight children thriving in those very cottages. It was fun to meet the children, to be with Rafiki co-workers, and to go to familiar places with wonderful memories. A most heart-warming part of my trip was my reunion with several dear, dear women. Josephine, my housekeeper in Kenya, has continued in Bible Study Fellowship and is living a lifestyle that honors God. Agnes, pictured here, is one of the girls I taught at the girls' center and now the class captain at her secondary school. Shilmuth,

another student at the girls' center, is employed by Rafiki and doing quite well. It was so much fun to see the surprised look on many faces as people struggled to remember me, confused by my long hair, which used to be very short. Can you imagine that one of my fellow workers did not even recognize me until I held out my hand and said, "Hello, my name is Joanne Colvin." I had such a good time teasing him about that! Although it was hard to say goodbye to my Kenyan friends, I was very happy to return to my beloved Uganda. *Please pray for all Rafiki Overseas Staff (ROS) to be content in our assignments and God's providence.*



AGNES

Good News

The other day, while visiting with one of our families, I was asked to read a Bible story to the children. We chose the account of Jesus sending out His disciples to teach the people and preach the gospel. I used the opportunity to teach the children the Kiswahili word for news: "habari," since they will be learning Kiswahili one day in school. In Luganda, the native tongue of our children, the word is "amawulire." We talked about the good news that Jesus wanted the disciples to share with the people. The Bethel family, with whom I was visiting, is pictured on the following page. Auntie Edith (mother's assistant) is standing on the left and Rafiki Mother Robinah is standing on the right. The

children are, from left to right: Robert, Ivan, Jovan, Agnes, Samson, William, Jesca, Molly, Charles, and Shillah. *Please pray for our teachers, mothers, mother's assistants, and ROS to teach the children about the gospel and its gift of forgiveness for sins through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross.*



BETHEL FAMILY

Weary Souls

In the month of October, our Rafiki staff screened thirty-two children who might be candidates to come to live at the Rafiki Village. The last trip was unlike the earlier October journeys in that the children were deep in their villages, "in the bush," as we say here. Tyler Anderson, our medical director, had difficulty drawing blood from some of the children because of their anemic condition. Often, children "at risk" are considered by Rafiki for placement at our Village, if their conditions may be treated with our limited resources. Rafiki's goal is to raise godly children to serve their people for God's glory. What an honor it is to welcome these little ones into our Village family and to watch them flourish. Recently, Benjamin came to live with us, bringing our population to sixty-six children. *Please pray that our staff, the Home Office staff, and others involved will be in complete unity to discern which children God would have us accept.*

Cold Water

In Kenya, the workers all drink hot tea at work breaks and meals. In Uganda, everyone wants cold water. One of our challenges at school is to help our Ugandan teachers drink enough cold water to stay hydrated when it is hot. During the afternoon hours, when the city power is not available, some of our classrooms become rather warm (but only temporarily). Teachers, being the ones exerting physical energy as they teach, often get headaches and feel faint if they do not drink enough water. *Please pray for our*

teachers and other staff to remember to drink water, God's medicine, to stay healthy.

As I think about our school and work through Proverbs 25:25 backwards, I am reminded of another Bible verse: Ecclesiastes 7:8 **"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride."** This verse is especially meaningful to me, since we have a few challenges at our school. I know that God will provide every resource we need, because He has always been faithful in the past. At this time, we have four classes: threes, fours, kindergarten, and primary one (first grade). Ideally, we would have seven or eight teachers; we have five, with another to begin training this month, for a total of six. In January, we will open primary two, thus needing even more teachers. I know that the end of this matter will be better than its beginning, not that we are suffering in any way. God has been so gracious as to guide us in using our staff well, and in the flexibility of our teachers. Our threes meet in the afternoons, allowing the two teachers in the morning fours class to work in that class also. *Please pray for additional qualified teachers to be referred to us, and for the continued flexibility of our teaching staff. Will you also pray that new teachers quickly grasp the methods and content of our Classical Christian Education? Pray for my patience as I train the new teachers.*

I urge you to come and see our distant land, to experience for yourself the good news of God's grace to Africa's most vulnerable citizens. Opportunities to serve on a short-term basis are available through the Rafiki MiniMission program. Rafiki is also seeking certified teachers to help us in our schools, on a long-term basis. *If you are a teacher who has considered mission work, will you pray for God's guidance about serving with Rafiki?* Contact information for Rafiki is easily found on our web site: www.rafiki-foundation.org. I thank God for bringing me to Africa to use my training in education to change the lives of her children. I can think of no more fulfilling calling than this.

Thank you for your prayers, "Mwebale nnyo."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Colvin".

Joanne Colvin

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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.