



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (Colossians 3:12).

Dear Friends, Family, Supporters,

What a privilege to be counted as one of God’s chosen people! I marvel at the other “chosen people”—children, teen-age girls, national teachers, Rafiki workers, and other national people outside the Rafiki gates with whom I am friends. It is a well-documented fact that a simple life, one of poverty, brings people closer to the Lord. They must depend upon Him for their daily existence. Frequently, the girls at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) meet for the closing prayer before they set off for their journey home, the girl praying thanks God for one more day of life. In a country where 38% of the children do not survive to age five, where children are kidnapped and sacrificed in witch-craft rituals, where most do not have adequate food, housing or clothing, life is not taken for granted. It is truly a gift from God. As I teach these girls, I have to constantly remind myself of their difficult home circumstances. I pray that God gives me compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.



These are the twelve students at the JSS. I am on the left, Maggie Dahlman, the right.

In my last newsletter, I introduced the six children in my second grade language arts class. Now, I am going to highlight some of the answers to a questionnaire I gave to my JSS girls last month.

1. How old are you?

The girls range in from thirteen to twenty.

2. Why did you come to Rafiki?

I came to Rafiki to learn about God, to improve my English and to improve my skills.

I came to study.

I came to Rafiki because my guardian didn't have enough money for school fees. I am proud of this school and thank God for it.

3. What are your future plans?

When I go to the university, I want to become a God-fearing doctor. (Another girl also wants to become a doctor).

I want to be a nurse and help family members. (Four other girls want to become nurses.)

I want to go to university and be a computer person and accountant.

I want to get a good job so that I can help my guardian and my little sister and brother.

I want to be an English teacher. (Another girl also wants to be a teacher.)

My future plans are to get an education and become a nurse or a missionary.

4. What have you learned at Rafiki?

I have learnt more about God and how to obey God. I have learnt sewing and English.

I believe in Jesus Christ. I learned English.

I have learned weaving and many other things. But the best thing in our school is that we put God first in everything.

I have learned discipline, organization, being punctual, and more about God.

They teach us the Word of God and how to walk with Him. I have learned many other things that will help me in my future.

I learned many things here, but the best thing is to glorify God.

5. What is the best thing about Rafiki?

It is a well-behaved school. We eat a balanced diet, have well-trained teachers, a good compound, and security.

The best thing is they teach us God’s Word and how to respect God.

They put God first and others follow.

They do not mistreat children; they trust in God; they have dictionaries that help us increase our vocabulary.

We get free things that are not in other schools like uniforms, lunch, study materials.

It teaches skills, God's Word, self-control and discipline, and everything is freely given.

Rafiki has good and humble teachers that love the students. It has a good environment for studying.

As you read the girls' answers, you must realize that education is not free in Uganda. There are some free government schools, but they are few. They also have large classes of 100 or more students and poorly trained and poorly paid teachers. There are few text books and materials. The schools are conducted in English, but most of the teachers do not have an adequate knowledge of English. Decent jobs in Uganda demand a good command of English. During Idi Amin's era in the 1970s, the schools were closed and education was not valued. Within the last two decades of President Museveni's regime, getting an education has become more important—the key to a better life. For the girls at the JSS, to have school in a clean, loving, godly environment is a new experience. I hope the girls' answers give you a new appreciation of Rafiki's work and how we are helping vulnerable teenage girls to have a hope for their future.

Furlough Schedule

This year is my furlough year. I will be in California, Texas, Florida, Missouri and Oregon visiting supporters and relatives. Several coffees and church presentations have been planned. I'm outlining my schedule and giving contact information. I'd love to see as many of you as possible while I'm home.

Tuesday, June 26, 7 P.M. Magalia, California
Coffee at the home of Genora Germek
Phone (530) 873-0602, E-mail genora001@att.net

Friday, June 29, 9:30 A.M. Houston, Texas
Coffee at the home of Wendy Mixon,
E-mail wsmixon@usa.net

Sunday, July 1, 9:30 A.M. Houston, Texas
Sunday school presentation, First Presbyterian Church of Houston; Mary Floye Federer at mffederer@fpchouston.org

Friday, July 6, 7 P.M. (?) Austin, Texas
Reception; contact Georgi Duwe at grannmem@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, July 8, 6:30 P.M. Dallas, Texas
Reception at The Heights Baptist Church; contact Portland Mithen at portlandmithen@tx.rr.com

July 10-13 St. Petersburg, FL
Coffee hosted by Cynthia Lake sometime during these days; contact Clake@childrensdreamfund.org

Sunday, July 15, 10 A.M. St. Peters, Missouri
Grace Community Chapel, Sunday school presentation in Susan Hileman's class, potluck following church; contact Ginnie Dumser at redbudbranch@dumsters.net.

Thursday, July 26, 7 P.M. Oroville, California
Presentation at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2350 Foothill Blvd.

Friday, July 27, 7 P.M. Oroville, California
Coffee at home of Kristine Neal, contact Krisitine (530) 589-9013, E-mail ekrr1@yahoo.com

Sunday, July 29, 3 P.M. Sacramento California
Presentation at Freemont Presbyterian Church, contact Lynn and Bob Schroeder
E-mail blschroeder@jps.net

Tuesday, July 31 Vacaville, California
Presentation at Community Presbyterian Church, contact Marion DeLaney at drdelaney@comcast.net

Prayer Requests:

- To be able to see many friends, family, and supporters while I'm home on furlough
- Opportunities to share with many new people
- That I exhibit compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as I teach and interact with other ROS and nationals
- For the mill in Mbale to start producing thread again (this is our only source for thread for our weaving looms)

Prayer Praises:

- Many people have shown an interest in having me share about Rafiki while I'm home on furlough.
- Overall health of JSS girls and children has improved since Dr. Tyler's regular medical help.
- My son Eric, a pediatrician, is helping with the Kenya clinic from June 4-14. I am meeting him in Nairobi and we will fly back to California together.

En agape,



JoAnn

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P.S. From the Home Office: JoAnn is at 87% of the total needed for term three (January 2007 – December 2008).