



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4040 • 210-244-2600 • [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org)

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*“ . . . and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live” (Acts 17:26b NIV).*

Dear Family and Friends

What a joy it is to be writing to you from Uganda!

This is a time of new beginnings. Easter was a great reminder of this as we celebrated the resurrection of Christ and the beginning of the new life that we have in Him. **This is the time that God has determined and the place that He has given me to live.** It is the beginning of a new way of life for me for which I thank Him.

As my faithful supporters, this is a time of new beginnings for you, too, as you serve the Lord alongside of me. You play a very important role in my life providing love, prayers, e-mails, and financial support. Thank you for serving the Lord and me in this way. I pray that you, too, will enjoy this new beginning in your life.

On my arrival on March 6<sup>th</sup>, I learned that I would be co-teaching the three-year-old class in the Rafiki School. This is a very new experience for an ex-travel agent, but it is what God has called me to and is equipping me for. It is a joy to watch as the little children learn new things at school. They are excited about their new teacher being a white African. This is a whole new concept to them.



CRICKET AND JOVAN

In February 2003, when the first four children arrived at the Rafiki Village here in Uganda, it was not only a new beginning for them but also for the women who were to become their Rafiki mothers. It is easy to think only of the new life and hope that we are giving to these helpless and abandoned little children and to overlook the fact that some of the woman who have become mothers to our children have also been abandoned in one way or another. Many of our Rafiki Mothers—who are all strong Christian women—have been abandoned through divorce or multiple marriages and no longer have the love of a family. Some, too, have been widowed and are alone in the world.



CRICKET, MOMMA ROSEMARY & MICHAEL

Life in the Rafiki Village offers these Rafiki Mothers a new beginning, too. Now they have a family again. Not only do they have children to take care of and love, who love them in return, but they also have Christian brothers and sisters. The ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) become like family to them, too. They no longer feel alone or abandoned. Rafiki Mothers now have a place to call home. They earn a regular salary while doing eternal work of eternal value.



SOPHIE

Every aspect of life in a Rafiki Village has eternal value to it. In addition to teaching three year-olds each week day, I have the privilege from time to time-of-helping to cover the weekend village needs. During these weekends there is time to interact with the Rafiki Mothers, mothers' assistants, and children. It has been a special blessing to get to know the different little personalities of the children. I have also enjoyed gaining a deeper understanding of the Rafiki Mothers as I have watched them with their Rafiki children.



CRICKET, KIDS, AND ACCORDION

As I prepared to leave South Africa to begin my new life serving the Lord and His children in a Rafiki Village, I had only one regret. Many years ago I gave away all three of my accordions. I had no longer seen the need to keep them, and there were others more in need of a musical instrument than I was. Now looking forward to new beginnings, I realized what an asset an

accordion would be. I could just picture what fun it would be to lead our Rafiki children in worship, or even just to instill in them the love for music. God knew the desire of my heart to once more own an accordion. Three days before my departure from South Africa, a very dear family friend came to bid me a fond farewell. In conversation, she learned that I no longer owned an accordion which I could bring to the mission field with me. The following day, my dear friend returned and shared with me that the Lord had laid it on her heart to give me her own accordion. She had had many years of joy using her accordion in the Lord's service and felt that it was now time for me to take it over and continue to use it in His service for His glory. What a wonderful gift, true blessing, and answer to prayer! I thank God for a precious friend who heard God's voice and responded in obedience to Him. I pray that my life will reflect the same type of obedience, generosity, and sacrifice.

**PRAISES:**

- Smooth transition from South Africa to Uganda
- Supportive family and friends
- Wonderful team of ROS here in Uganda

**REQUESTS:**

- Health and safety
- Wisdom, understanding, and patience in teaching the three-year-old class at school
- Future work in Rwanda, and for the granting of work permits and tax exemptions
- Continued vibrant relationship with God

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. I appreciate you.

Love Always,

Cricket Meyer

c/o Rafiki Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Box 12714  
Kampala, Uganda  
EAST AFRICA

NEW E-mail: cricket2@mweb.co.za

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