



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22,23).*

Greetings to my friends and family,

Or as we say in Uganda, “*Olyoty*.” Our English-only policy at the Rafiki Girls’ Center prevents me from practicing my limited Luganda with the girls during center hours, but they delight in giving me new words to learn after Rafiki closes. The girls have a hard time remembering that the letter “g” is pronounced /gee/ not /gay/. In Luganda, the word for “egg” is *edgi* (pronounced like “edgy” -- on edge). So, when one of the girls says /gay/ for “g,” I remind her it’s like *edgi*. Oh, right. The light dawns and she remembers our English pronunciation. Now that I’ve returned from my furlough in France and the United States, I hope to have a little more time to devote to learning more phrases and words in Luganda. A little bit of the local language goes a long ways in establishing rapport with the nationals.

FURLOUGH

How great was the Lord’s love and His compassion during my week in Paris and four weeks in the States. In all the flying I did, not ONE plane came in late, I made ALL my connections—even though the airports were crowded and security caused long, frustrating lines. British Air even upgraded me to business class going from London to Chicago! I truly thank the Lord for compassion such as that!

All my coffees, church talks, and private visits with supporters, friends, and family filled me with love and gratitude knowing that all of you truly feel a part of Rafiki’s ministry in Africa. Even though I didn’t get to see all of you, and the time I did have went by way too fast, I was refreshed and encouraged by the enthusiasm of those I

did see. Thank you for your hospitality, friendship, love, and concern. I especially felt blessed by the Lord that He enabled me to spend time with all my grandchildren, sons, and daughters-in-law. My youngest son, Kenneth, was in Singapore when this picture was taken but he flew into Sacramento just before I left, so I was able to see him for an afternoon, too.



A GREAT FAMILY REUNION
(MISSING YOUNGEST SON KENNETH)

The last week of furlough was spent in San Antonio, Texas, at the Rafiki Home Office at Enrichment Week. Two outstanding Bible teachers enriched us with their knowledge; Rafiki’s director, Rosemary Jensen, enriched us with updates as to all the fabulous, new things in Rafiki’s near future (check the website for the latest news at www.rafiki-foundation.org); fellowshipping with the other Rafiki Overseas Staff (ROS) enriched all of us; excellent lunches and dinners provided by volunteers enriched our bodies—and the week was fun, to boot! Yes, Lord, Great is your faithfulness!

RAFIKI GIRLS' CENTER

While I was away, two dynamic MiniMissionaries helped at the RGC—the first was our master weaver and mentor, Bev Polk, who returned to Uganda to help after a short hiatus of seven weeks since her first trip to Uganda to revamp the weaving looms. The second was RGC director Shirlene Farris' twenty-two year old son, Michael. Not only was this a treat for the girls, it was a special time for Shirlene and Michael. I know for me the biggest sacrifice of all is being so far away from family. So while I was visiting with my family in the States, Shirlene and Michael made an effective mother-son team here in Uganda. Rafiki is always in need of MiniMissionaries. If you're toying with the idea of coming to Africa to help, go to the Rafiki website and find out how you, too, can have a hands-on experience.

We now have fourteen girls at the center, with the third semester right around the corner. Shirlene and I met with ten new candidates for October's enrollment last week. We'll accept new applications for two more weeks before making the final selections. Each time we take new girls, the center takes on a whole new atmosphere. This month we're adding two more ROS—so that will help with the work load. The girls attend classes during the mornings, prepare and eat lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and do their weaving in the afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



RITAH AND HANIFA DOING
"RAG" WEAVING ON HAND FRAMES

We are turning out products for the Rafiki Exchange now—yarn and cloth purses and eye glass cases on the hand frames and placemats on the looms. The first products hit the Exchange while I was at Enrichment Week and were sold out within a few hours.

PRAYER PRAISES

- Two additional ROS joining the RGC staff
- Weaving going well

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Qualified applicants for fall semester
- Safety for all ROS
- Financial support for the 2005-06 term

Weeraba (Lugandan for "goodbye"). Maybe in my next newsletter I'll be able to share with you some more sophisticated phrases.

Serving Christ in Uganda,

JoAnn Neal

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EAST AFRICA

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From the Home Office:

JoAnn is at 40% of funding needed for her current term.

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