



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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June 2005

*"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you" (Galatians 1:18).*

Greetings from Uganda,

A myriad of activities have kept us ROS busy these past months. A whirlwind visit from Home Office was the highlight of April. As usual, Rosemary Jensen and entourage were only here for a couple of days, but many irons in the fire were put a-sizzle. Rosemary established a liaison between Rafiki and the Church of Uganda. This will be an ongoing source for children for the RCC, mothers, and aunties to work with the children, and national teachers for the RCC school. We pray that the Lord opens the eyes of our hearts (both Rafiki's and the Church of Uganda's) so we may better serve Him in this new relationship.



ROSEMARY AND CREW LOOKING AT THE PICTURES I'D TAKEN THAT DAY.

## RGC News

Being back in the classroom fills me with delight as well as giving me challenges. One of the classes I teach the fourth-semester girls is business machines. Most of these girls had never licked an envelope or stamp, mailed a letter, or had the foggiest notion of how to write a letter.

We wrote several letters to Home Office and the RGC girls in Malawi. Then we took them to the local post office. I had sent word the day before that we were coming so the postmistress would be there. She seemed happy to have a little business when we came the next day. Not too much mail goes through this frontier outpost that passes for a post office. She didn't even have stamps for the United States, so we gave her the letters and money for the stamps. She said she'd take them into Kampala the next day herself. Sarah, one of my more skeptical girls, asked me later, "How do we know she is really going to mail those letters and not just keep the money for herself?" That thought had crossed my mind, too, but I confidently told Sarah that if the postmistress wasn't honest, she wouldn't keep her job, would she? As the girls experience new horizons, it's a privilege to see how God is opening the eyes of their hearts, slowly revealing His plan for them as they learn new things at Rafiki.



RGC STUDENTS ON AN OUTING TO THE LOCAL POST OFFICE

## Working with Partner Churches

The Rafiki Foundation works with local churches that are our partners—the latest being the Church of Uganda as mentioned in the first paragraph. In the neighboring town of Wakiso, our partner church is Wakiso Central Baptist Church. Every Sunday, a different group of RCC children attend Sunday school with the local Wakiso children. Susan, the pastor's wife, has been instrumental in helping the RGC to find qualified candidates for our girls' center. Susan invited me to go with her to a small church deep in the bush that her church is mentoring. We put my four-wheel RAV4 to the test that day, driving over deeply rutted dirt roads that were more like trails than roads. Finally, we arrived at the church. I thought the church was just being constructed, but Susan said the church has been there for some time. There just isn't much money to construct independent churches in these areas. (The only half-way decent looking churches deep in the bush are either Catholic or Church of Uganda.) But, rough as the church building looked, the people exuded warmth and joy. They welcomed the *muzungu* (white person), and a man with an old box camera even took several pictures of me! I wondered where he would get the film developed. After the service, a meal of beans, *posho*, *matoke*, rice, and greens was served. A stringy chicken floating in grease was presented to me. None of the other church members had chicken. Susan and her two boys were my lunch mates and were more than happy to eat the chicken after I took a very small portion.



SUSAN AND THE BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR

I enjoyed the day and felt like I was truly experiencing rural Uganda. It opened the eyes of my heart, seeing God's hand at work in a church that had very little except a shell of a building and the Holy Bible on the altar.

## Prayer Praises and Petitions

Praises:

- Classes are going well at the RGC.
- We seem to be over the malaria outbreak.
- I have moved into the new duplex at the Rafiki Village.
- My son, Bryan, has a clean bill of health after a heart scare.

Petitions:

- More ROS for Uganda and for the other Rafiki sites
- Protection from malaria and other diseases and parasites, as well as poisonous snakes and spiders
- Doctrinally correct teaching materials for these fledging Baptist churches in the bush

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoAnn".

JoAnn Neal, Unit #152

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