



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“For know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Greetings from Uganda.

Dusty roads turn to red mud as the dry season draws to a close and pellets of hail and rain assail the land. But no one complains about the rain. It is the very breath of life for an agricultural country like Uganda. We’ve also survived the recent presidential election and President Museveni was peaceably returned to office. Life is good.

We now have five semesters of girls at the Rafiki Girls’ Center – for a total of thirty-five fun-loving, godly girls. They weren’t always this happy. All of them come from deprived backgrounds, many of them orphans. None of them had money to continue their education. All of them thank God that they can attend the Rafiki Girls’ Center where every weekday they interact in small, individualized classes; enjoy a hot shower and a hot lunch; learn weaving skills; and are taught by a loving staff of four “muzungus” (white people), Dave and Gretchen Peterson, Shirlene Farris, and myself, and one dedicated national lady, Annet. Our days are filled with laughter and praise songs as we learn more about God’s attributes, attend academic classes, and produce beautiful woven products.

I wish you could be here and meet these young ladies yourself. For this newsletter, I am going to introduce you to two of the girls in Semester Five. They will be in the first class of girls to graduate from our program next October.

First is Hanifa. Can you see the gleam in her eye as she proudly models her very own creation that she made in tailoring class? Hanifa was only fourteen when she came to Rafiki two years ago. An extremely bright and able girl, she had only completed schooling through Primary Seven. She comes from a polygamous home with a Muslim father. Hanifa is the youngest of her mother’s children. Her older sisters all finished Senior Four, but there wasn’t enough money for Hanifa to go to senior high school. Even before she came to Rafiki, she was going to a Christian church. One of the beautiful things about Hanifa is her love for the Lord. With her infectious enthusiasm, she literally dances and sings her way through the day. Her older sister, Jaliah, is also a Rafiki student in semester four. When I asked Hanifa what she does on weekends, she said she spends Sundays at her church where she not only sings in the youth choir, but also watches another lady’s twin babies so the woman can attend church. Being able to multi-task, Hanifa entertains the babies at the back of the church while she is taking in the pastor’s sermons. When she graduates from Rafiki, she will just have turned seventeen. She would like to go back to Ugandan school and complete four years of high school if she can get school fees. Her future goals? She’d like to be a tailor – and who can blame her with her designer and sewing skills. Perhaps. But I feel God has even greater plans for this little lady.

Rebecca entered Rafiki when she was sixteen. Now she is nineteen. She also comes from a polygamous family, but both her mother and father are dead. Rebecca has three younger sisters who live in Mpigi, a town about two hours away. Her seventeen-year-old sister’s boarding school is being sponsored by a mission group, and her other two sisters are in day school. Rebecca lives near her half-sister, Catherine, who is married to the Youth Pastor of Wakiso Central Baptist Church. (For those of you who follow my prayer letters, this is Pastor Fred and Susan Kabuuka’s church – about whom I have frequently written.) Rebecca is an



HANIFA MODELS
HER NEW DRESS.



REBECCA MADE A
STUNNING CREATION.

outstanding student and has a glow about her that radiates her love for the Lord. She is very active in her church, acting as an interpreter, a Sunday school teacher, choir member, and she uses her computer skills to help program church activities. She graduated from Senior Four before coming to Rafiki. When she finishes at Rafiki, she would like to take further training in computers and then find work in an NGO that helps children, such as World Vision, Caring Heart, or Compassion International. With Rebecca's even temperament, submissive spirit, and willingness to help in whatever way she can, she will be a real asset wherever she is employed. Rebecca told me today, "Rafiki has brought back my hope."

I praise the Lord every day that He called me to Uganda to work with these special daughters of His. The Almighty God truly has great plans for these girls, plans to give them hope and a future.

Prayer Petitions:

- The Coiner family. Stu was the plant manager here in Uganda. He returned back to the States last month where he was operated on for cancer. His wife Marsha and daughter Melanie have returned to be with Stu during this difficult time. Please pray for complete healing for Stu and stamina for Marsha. In one of Marsha's e-mails, she said that Stu looks on his battle with cancer as a "life experience."

- The Evans family. Brad and Jesi and their baby Tori are ROS in Nigeria. Jesi had rheumatic fever during her pregnancy which caused heart damage. Jesi and baby Tori are now in the States. There is a possibility Jesi may have to have her aortic valve replaced. This young couple is on fire for the Lord. Please pray that Jesi can be healed and they can return to the mission field.
- Protection for all ROS, their families, national staff, RCC children, RGC girls, and RBC boys. Satan doesn't like us here in Africa and seems to be attacking in vicious ways.

Thank you for your prayers and love. Satan may not like Rafiki in Africa, but God is doing great and marvelous things despite the evil one's attacks.

Serving Him in Uganda,



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