



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258 • 210-244-2600 • FAX 210-244-2605

September 2007

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:12-1).*

Dear Family and Friends,

As I traveled the United States this summer visiting friends and family, I knew this precious time was going to end—just as a mist that rises on a cool morning dissipates in the warmth of the noonday sun, to become merely a fond, yet lasting memory. I knew that I would return to Africa to the work the Lord has given me.

I thank Him that I was able to see so many of you and spend a few days with my grandchildren and their parents. What a blessing my furlough was! And how receptive everyone was who heard about the inspirational work the Lord is doing in Africa through the Rafiki Foundation.

As I traveled from the West Coast to the East Coast, I was graciously hosted by old friends, new friends, and family.



ONE OF TWO FAMILY GATHERINGS WITH MY GRANDCHILDREN

At one family gathering of my immediate family, I marveled as I took this picture at how much my grandchildren had grown! It was such a blessing that we were able to have a family gathering both in June and again a month later in July just before I left. The Lord is good!

When I returned to Uganda to my classes, I thanked the Lord that my two English classes had been lovingly taught by several MiniMissionaries. I worried that my students might be disappointed to see me back—after all, it’s always fun to have young, enthusiastic, substitute teachers for a change of pace. But, I was warmly greeted by the girls at both the Junior Secondary School and my students in Primary Two. It

was good to be back in the routine of teaching and supervising the production of the weaving products.

Another blessing was that I returned to Uganda in time to witness our first medical clinic. Our on-site medical officer, Tyler Anderson, spent the summer planning the clinic and working with local and national volunteers from Wakiso Central Baptist Church who were going to serve as translators and helpers. Six MiniMissionaries—Dr. Dan Pope, Lisa Lucas, Dana Cooper, Liz Prince, Portland Mithen, and Jerry Prenzlou came from the U.S. to help Tyler run the seven-day clinic. The clinic started out slowly with only sixty-five patients the first day, but the numbers increased daily. The final number of national people served topped 750!

The nineteen national volunteers faithfully arrived by seven in the morning, and worked until seven in the evening many days. The MiniMissionaries all praised the tireless dedication the local volunteers demonstrated. Several of the volunteers were former Rafiki students, now able to put into use their exceptional knowledge of English that was gained at our school.

Medical problems ranged from hypertension to diabetes, from abscesses to abrasions, from motorcycle accidents to AIDS—and, of course the ever-present malaria. Being a photographer by avocation, I want to share some poignant moments I captured with my digital. As you can see, the people were beautiful—all ages with a myriad of ailments. To God be the glory for this remarkable work. We are looking forward to having many more clinics in the future.



DANA COOPER WITH TWO FORMER RAFIKI STUDENTS, FATUMAH AND VICTO.



ELDERLY GENTLEMAN WAITED PATIENTLY TO BE SEEN.



MAMA AND TWO-WEEK-OLD BABY WITH LITTLE BROTHER LOOKING ON.



THE HALLWAY OF THE CLINIC OVERFLOWED WITH WAITING PATIENTS.



PORTLAND MITHEN COUNSELS SUSAN, WHO WAS NOT ONLY HER VOLUNTEER TRANSLATOR, BUT ALSO SOUGHT MEDICAL ADVICE.

PRAISES:

- A warm welcome and gracious hospitality from so many of you while I traveled.
- For the MiniMissionaries who gave of themselves unselfishly during furlough time.
- For safe travels and no major delays while I traveled through many airports and on many planes.
- For a chance to see the "older" generation on my husband's side of the family, and for their enthusiastic welcome. They met me at the Portland airport with banners and kazoos!

PETITIONS:

- Although my right shoulder pain isn't due to a torn rotator cuff, I continue to have pain and lack of mobility. We have a physical therapist here as a MiniMissionary for the next two weeks. Pray that together we can make some good progress getting my shoulder back to 100%.
- For team unity and love as we all strive together to do the Lord's work.
- The only thread mill that produces thread for weaving in Uganda is closed for an indefinite time. Pray that it will resume production soon, and that it will make the weight of thread we need to continue our production.

Serving Him in Uganda,

JoAnn Neal
PO Box 64
Waskiso, Uganda

ROS #: 152

E-mail: joann.neal@gmail.com
(Please note that this is a new e-mail address)