

NOVEMBER 2022

# RAFIKI FOUNDATION MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER



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Missionary #252

Dear friends and mission partners,

As we approach Thanksgiving, Michelle and I want you to know that we are grateful to you for partnering with us in this amazing mission that is affecting countless lives through a great classical Christian education, in-depth Bible study, sound Sunday School materials for all ages, teacher training, widows support, and much more. Your generosity makes this possible.

I do not have space to tell you everything that has happened here just in the last month, but here are a few highlights.

For our first eighteen months here, we have been blessed to work with our fellow missionary, the amazing Kelly Fore. She is an inspiring Christian woman—and just lots of fun to be with. After eleven years in Africa, God and Rafiki have called her back to Florida to be the first headmaster of the Rafiki Classical Academy in Eustis which will be opening fall of 2023. We are sure you are going to be hearing a lot more about this new Rafiki mission field—and we are looking forward to sharing great cappuccinos with her when we are at the Home Office.

Around the beginning of 2023, we will be welcoming missionaries Amber and Paul Okoth, who have been serving at the Rafiki Village in Kenya. Amber will be our new headmaster and Paul will be managing our fast-growing Africa Outreach efforts.

As we drove Kelly to the airport, we had the honor of stopping by the State House and visiting with Janet Museveni, First Lady of Uganda and Minister of Education and Sports. Kelly delivered a book and letter from Rosemary Jensen, and Michelle and I updated her on what is happening at Rafiki and RICE. She reminisced about her fond memories of Rosemary and her support of Rafiki and its mission.

As you may have read, there has been a major outbreak of the Sudan strain of the Ebola virus in two districts about 150 miles from Kampala. There have been a few cases in the Kampala area, but we are cautiously optimistic that its spread is slowing. There is no approved vaccine for this strain, although tests on some vaccine candidates have just begun. The government has ordered preschools through secondary schools to close two weeks early on November 25. *Please pray that the spread of this virus will halt, that those who are affected get early and effective treatment, that our students and residents remain safe, and that our residents will still be able to go on their long Christmas homestay.*

## Quick Takes

- We currently have 430 students from preschool through secondary school receiving a classical Christian education at our Village in Uganda with 85% of the cost covered by donations to the Rafiki Foundation.
- We have ten students currently enrolled in our Teachers College as we work to recover from the two-year COVID lockdown and enroll more. All tuition costs, except for a nominal fee, are covered by donations to the Rafiki Foundation.
- There are sixty-five residents (orphans) currently living in the Rafiki Village.
- We have a national staff and faculty of seventy-four employees—and we continued to pay salaries even during the two-year COVID lockdown when most school laid off staff.
- At the moment we have five resident graduates at Ugandan universities on full scholarship provided through Rafiki. Seven more are graduating in December, starting university in August, and have applied for Rafiki scholarships (Sponsoring one of these scholarships is a great way to help a young person get a good start in life).
- We continue to work with the National Curriculum Development Centre through the final steps of having the Rafiki Education System (RES) officially accredited so that it can be used in government supported schools.
- The RES is a complete nursery through secondary classical Christian curriculum. It is thoroughly Christ-centered including a daily Bible study taking students through all books of the Bible in eleven years. And it is now available in the U.S. for use in Christian schools and home schools.
- In cooperation with our partner university, Westminster Christian Institute Uganda and the National Council for Higher Education, we continue to develop degree programs in primary and early childhood education specific to our campus.
- We are a partner with the 11 million member Church of Uganda and are preparing to pilot the RES in some of their 5,000 plus schools. I recently spent a day in the Diocese of Ankole with the COU diocesan education directors viewing schools and talking about the RES and the Sunday School Studies.
- We have distributed more than 600 Rafiki Sunday School Studies on the books of Matthew and Acts to partner churches throughout Uganda. Our current stock of about 400 Studies on Acts will be gone before the summer.
- Michelle is busy as our interim headmaster and RICE dean as well as coordinating our Widows and Childcare Programs.
- We are planning a conference on classical Christian education here in Kampala on October 5 and 6, 2023. We will have distinguished speakers from the U.S. and Africa as well as workshops to spread the word about how the New Old Way is best. If you are in the neighborhood, drop in and join us.
- Rafiki has lots of opportunities for short- (or long!) term missionary service. You do not have to be a great preacher: we need teachers, musicians, artists, carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, farmers, and more.

## How you can support Rafiki's mission—and ours!

Your support is what has made this possible. We are planning on being in the U.S. next April. We would like to come visit as many of you as possible and report in person on all that is going on. Please let us know by email if you will be available then. Of course, we would also love the opportunity to talk to others about the mission while we are there.

1. We appreciate your direct support for us. All of our expenses are paid by folks like you and you are truly our partners in this work. By supporting us, you allow Rafiki to use all of its donations for student sponsorships and scholarships and other programs for the people who need it most. You can donate by visiting online at: <https://RafikiFoundation.org/missionary/Michelle-and-David-Graves-252>. You can make a one-time or a recurring contribution.
2. Sponsor a Rafiki resident or day student. Go to: <https://RafikiFoundation.org/child-pages/child-summary>.



3. Support African widows and their families by buying beautiful handmade crafts at our online store at: <https://store.RafikiFoundation.org>. Whole bean gourmet African coffee is now also available online as well that supports the Widows Program.
4. Study the Bible using the Rafiki Bible Study: <https://www.RafikiBibleStudy.org>.
5. Join us in Africa as a short- or long-term missionary! Whatever your skills, background, or age, God can use you here. It will be life-changing and one of the most rewarding things you've ever done. <https://RafikiFoundation.org/opportunities>. Current Missionary trainings are also listed here for 2023.

## Pray

Finally, we ask that you continue to pray for our mission here:

- *That God will quickly end the latest outbreak of the Ebola virus and keep our residents, students, families, and staff safe from it.*
- *That God will raise the resources we need to continue working in Africa.*
- *That God will guide us as we work to spread His Word in Uganda and train the next generation of Africa's leaders.*
- *For the completion of the accreditation process for the Rafiki Education System.*
- *For God's help as we develop degree programs that can be accredited by the National Council of Higher Education and that will train local teachers to follow the classical Christian model.*
- *For qualified student applicants for our teacher training college.*
- *For the success of the Uganda Classical Christian Education Conference, October 5 and 6, 2023.*

Please also pray that the Lord will provide more Rafiki Missionaries and more day student sponsors so that we can bring Bible study and classical Christian education to more needy children. Perhaps He is calling you to be the answer to one of those prayers? Visit [www.RafikiFoundation.org](http://www.RafikiFoundation.org) to learn more.

Please enjoy some pictures from our life here in Uganda.



Headmaster Assistant Derrick leads students in a service project improving the drainage on the road outside the Village



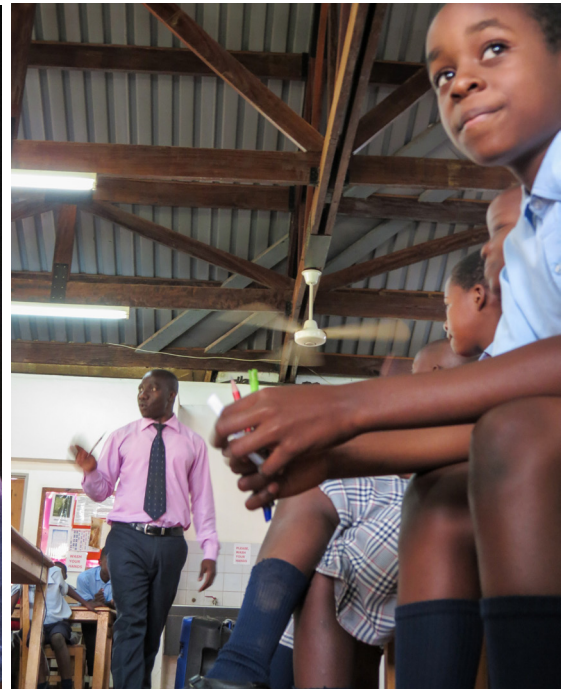
Afternoon chess club matches. Photo by resident student Deo Kaggwa.



Primary girls at netball practice. Photo by resident student Deo Kaggwa.



Resident student Jeremiah competes at the national Spelling Bee. Photo by resident student Deo Kaggwa.



Primary headteacher Chriz Ogen instructs students at a Spelling Bee practice. Photo by resident student Deo Kaggwa.

Thank you once again for your generous support and your prayers. We wish each of you a joyous Christmas and a very happy New Year.

In Christ,

*David & Michelle*

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