## RAFIKI FOUNDATION MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER



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Missionary #245

Dear friends and family,

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good and His ways are magnificent. In this life the Lord has called us to know this, to remember, and express gratitude for He is good and His ways can be trusted. Yet we so often forget and are blinded by our circumstances, struggles, and hardship. So as I sit here to update you I will reflect of the goodness of the Lord and share how great His ways have been.

## **The Goodness**

Rafiki Classical Christian School Uganda has had an exceptional term.

Our admin team and teaching staff have worked diligently to get trained and to implement a new school information system which allows for enhanced school, student, and teacher management, improved record keeping, grade-book and assignment/assessment management, and more. Though we are limited in the number of computers we have available, teachers have really embraced and appreciated the use of the new system allowing us to successfully generate end-of-year report cards.

This term we successfully implemented intra-school competitions that were engaging and enriching for our students. At primary school they had a science competition and in secondary they had a math competition.

Preschool had a dynamic cultural week. They dressed in cultural wear, made cultural food, visited the local markets, and danced and sang all to the glory of the Lord.

Paul has been teaching the teachers theological truths focused on what we believe as Christians. The teachers have raved about what they are learning and are asking many questions. The head teachers report that there are many conversations happening amongst the teachers as they consider the truths of our faith; such as the nature of God, the work of Christ, the role of the church, what is sin, election, atonement, and more.





Rafiki Secondary Classroom

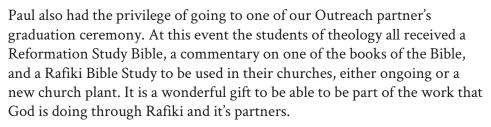
Students hosted our second annual Christmas Cantata. We had over 200 parents in attendance and the students performed beautifully under the instruction of our music director Teacher Edward. Teacher Edward graduated from Rafiki Classical School as a day student and fell in love with singing hymns and classical music under the guidance of the late Ms. Patti Lafage. He says he just loved her singing and the joy she had while she introduced the students to hymns each week. He has brought much joy to our music program, and the primary students are thriving under his guidance.

Rafiki gives Bibles to a lot of people through various organizations, but each year we receive children's Bibles from the Rosemary Jensen Bible Foundation. These Bibles go to children who are able to read in our partner schools. Paul, as Rafiki Outreach Program Coordinator, enjoys going out and handing out these Bibles. The first group has already received their Bibles and were so joyous. Christmas came early! Paul is looking forward to delivering the rest next year when school starts.









## God's ways

Paul and I could have never imagined where the Lord was leading us when we joined Rafiki: five years of marriage, a beautiful baby girl, and the possibility of another on the way. The Lord's way surely is good.

We have been praying about what program Paul would join to pursue studies in theology and the Lord has made a way. Paul was accepted to Westminster UK to get a Bachelors of Divinity, where he received a partial scholarship, making it possible to afford part time study starting in January.

I joined Rafiki planning to serve in sharing the gospel and to be an athletic director for eighteen months. God's way however was to serve six years and be a Headmaster. He has used me to coach people and lead them as they seek to know Him more, seek to teach more classically, seek to lead more like Christ, and so much more then I could have imagined. My greatest joy has been watching the leadership teams and teachers where I have served to grow in their faith and knowledge of who God is.





Paul Handing out bibles





Partner Outreach graduation

After six years of service to Rafiki, I will be stepping down from my role as Headmaster to pursue the new role the Lord has called me to, Motherhood. I cannot think of any other way to glorify the Lord than to embrace this new role as mother while continuing as a wife and support to my husband and the work he will continue doing as a Rafiki Missionary.

## **Prayer Requests**

Recently our vehicle has broken down on a couple occasions. By God's grace, He provided help in both situations. We started a car fundraising campaign last year and are praying that in this new year the Lord will provide us with a more reliable vehicle for our family.

The Rafiki School Uganda will need a new Headmaster. Will you join us in prayer for the Lord to bring someone along who can continue in the work, leading Ugandans to know Christ first, shepherding the administrators and teachers to teach in a God honoring way, and loving the people well, by building them up and training them for the work they have been called to.

The Lord has perfectly provided for us over the years, as our financial support needs have increased due to a growing family. We currently have a deficit and we ask that you would join us in praying for the Lord's perfect provision again, raising more support for us to clear this years deficit and aid in our support needed for the new year.

Paul needs a male Outreach Program assistant who will be able to travel with him to schools, train teachers on how to use the Rafiki early childhood and primary curriculum, has good organization and management skills, and who loves the Lord. Please join us in prayer for the Lord to provide that person.



Morning assembly

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love,

Amber and Paul Okoth