



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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January 2005

*"Let's have a feast and celebrate . . . So they began to celebrate"*  
(Luke 15: 23, 24).

Dear Family and Friends,

What special times our Rafiki children, moms, assistant moms, and I have been celebrating these past weeks:

**Christmas, Watch Night, a Wedding, Rain on New Year's Day, the President's Inauguration, and Accra winning the Gold Cup in Football !**

Celebrating Christmas began Christmas Eve. Eight Rafiki children were players in the Christmas story at their church. No electricity added to the special mystery of the Christmas story told by candlelight.

Celebrating Watch Night on December 31st, began at 10 P.M. in the Rafiki dining hall. The children presented a short program with songs, hymns and mostly prayer. Our Village Administrator gave the sermon. What a treat to pray to the Lord as the year goes out and the new one comes in!

Celebrating the wedding of Joyce, an assistant mom, and Joseph, a carpenter and former Rafiki employee, was New Year's Day at 11 A.M. The church was filled with people including several Rafiki children, two MiniMissionaries (from Missouri) and me. We sang praise songs while dancing in the aisles and waiting for the ceremony to start. A choir and soloists sang while drums, guitar, keyboard, and percussion instruments played. The bride wore a long white dress; her attendant wore a light purple dress.

The church was decorated with streamers and lights. At the reception we all enjoyed chips, cake and "minerals" (soda pop). The wedding couple's fathers gave speeches in Twi, their native language. Her attendants and friends, one by one, sang hymns and songs for our entertainment.

Celebrating rain is what we did on our journey home from the wedding. It poured

and the wind blew. We had not had rain for one month, so everything under the sun was dry, dusty and looking brown like summer in St. Louis. (This is the dry season in Ghana.) And getting rain on New Year's Day is a special treat, just like getting snow on Christmas Eve in the USA. Everyone was excited. Everyone, including children, had fun sweeping water from their houses.

Celebrating President Kufuor's Inauguration was the 8th of January. He was reelected on the 7th of December, receiving 54% of the votes. (These dates are permanent for Ghana's elections and inaugurations even if a Sunday.) President John A. Kufuor will guide Ghana for the next four years. The elections were safe and orderly. We Americans, Rafiki employees and children and all Ghanaians are grateful to God for peace here.

Celebrating the Gold Cup for Football on January 9th was comparable to the St. Louis Rams winning the Super Bowl against the Kansas City Chiefs!!! Kumase, four hours away, played Accra. And Accra was the winner! Monday after the game, people came wearing red, blue and gold banners and shirts to the main highway (like Interstate 70) to cheer their home team. The crowd was so large where I live, that the road was blocked with people watching and waving as the players passed. Coming home from Rafiki, I preceded the players by 30 minutes down the highway. I thought they were celebrating me (just kidding).

Celebrating the New Year start of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) meant our class moving to a new church and new night: a lot of change for 150 women! But nobody complained. I am thankful because our BSF class is twenty minutes closer to my home.

### **Celebrating you, dear family and friends.**

Thank you for each and every e-mail and snail mail, for cards and packages, for precious phone calls. Thank you for your encouragement, always at the right time, especially this first Christmas away from my family.

#### **Praises to God:**

- Continued safe travel: I drive to Rafiki over paved and dirt roads. Answered prayer
- Wisdom to train our new cook: God has given training ideas and stamina. Answered
- Need cook ASAP: We have three cooks as of Sept 04. Answered prayer!
- No mosquito bites, continuing health. Answered prayer
- Energy and wisdom to learn my new duties. Answered prayer
- Medical clinic Sept 14-17, 21-23, had volunteer translators, cool weather and many patients. Answered prayer

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Continued health, stamina, no mosquito bites
- Wisdom for constant training of the cooks and laundry man
- Patience in dealing with constant email and phone problems and costs
- No accidents at the Rafiki Village

If you have not received my monthly e-mail letter, but would like it, please email me: [nancybond@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:nancybond@africaonline.com.gh). I will add you to my address list.

If you need information about Rafiki Mini-Missions to Ghana or our other countries, please check out the Rafiki web site: [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org)

Celebrating and thanking God for You,



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