



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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May 2005

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”
(Colossians 3:23 NIV).

Dear Family and Friends,

I will be returning to St. Louis June 24th until July 29th to share my first year at the Rafiki Village in Ghana. What a joy it will be to see you and share my stories and “snaps” (photographs) of our Rafiki children! And you might have questions about my *work* and new home at the Rafiki Village. For the first time ever, I will be walking to *work*. ☺

Now, my *workday* in Ghana begins at 7 A.M. with a thirty-minute drive to the Rafiki Village, located four kilometers from the main highway and two kilometers from our nearest village, Kotoku. At *work*, my office is huge: it has three walls of curtained windows, terrazzo floors, fans and ten tables with chairs to match, and two doors. I have access to a refrigerator, freezer, six-burner gas stove plus tilt skillet, automatic dishwasher, four sinks, three more fans, and a storeroom of great foodstuffs!

Oops! I forgot that I have access to a laundry room of two washing machines, two clothes dryers, and one extractor. (It spins out the extra water from the clothes, making the drying time shorter.)

First at *work*, I greet the morning cook and laundry man, then unpack my portable desk and laptop computer. From this point, every day is different. I write weekly menus and purchase orders. Biweekly, I write the market list with the cooks' input. Thursdays are either market day or cleaning day. Daily, the cooks and I meet to share concerns like changing the menu and planning how much food is needed for school field trips or from the market. (My favorite menus: cabbage stew with rice, groundnut soup with rice balls or fufu, pineapple or mangoes for dessert.)

I meet daily with our new laundry man, Moses, to teach him everything I know about doing laundry for our fifty-four children, staff, and dining-hall tablecloths, napkins, and bibs. Wednesdays, I begin the day leading the children and adults in our chapel service in the outdoor gazebo. We sing hymns by heart, then the children listen to me talk.

Twice a week now, I assist Barb, our center director, as we triage children through our medical clinic while our Dr. Joy is in the U.S. for the birth of her first child. We send our sick children to Nsawam Hospital Clinic thirty minutes from the center. No trips to the hospital clinic thus far!!!

My car *works* too: it picks up the children's supper every Wednesday afternoon from the Kotoku Village woman who makes *kenkey* (fermented baked corn dough wrapped in corn husks.) It travels often to the village to grind corn, tomatoes, or groundnuts (for soup and breakfast). Sometimes, it picks up a jug of palm oil for cooking. When I arrive or leave the center, my car carries from two to twelve people out to the main highway to find *tro-tros* (minivans) or taxis for transport home. My manual transmission car eats diesel fuel, requires frequent oil changes and repairs, but carries me safely over dirt and paved roads. And I am grateful to God for the protection He provides.

My weeknights are spent planning, e-mailing, or falling asleep by 8 P.M. ☺ Tuesday evenings, four neighbors and I travel into Accra for Bible Study Fellowship International. We studied the book of Acts and Paul's letters this year. This September, we will be studying the book of

Genesis. Please join us here or in the U.S.A.

Saturday is for errands just like the U.S.A., except travel to the open air market, grocery store, bank, phone company, e-mail server, paint store, or post office adds one hour travel time each way.

Sunday is spent in worship of God at my neighborhood church, a five-minute walk away. We meet outside in a small shelter now until we can raise funds for a church building. We have lay preachers and leaders. We sing *a cappella* quite well with hymnbooks that have no music, just the words. Our worship service lasts from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., but adult Bible study and children's Sunday school class is built into the time. So everyone attends Sunday school and church service.

Praises to God for answered prayer:

- Continued health, stamina, no mosquito bites
- Wisdom for training cooks and laundry man
- New man Moses can "do clothes" with one home-size machine!
- Patience with constant e-mail and phone problems (God has given me patience—the problems have not changed.)
- No accidents at the Rafiki Village

Asking God for:

- Strength, energy, and wisdom in details of moving to my new duplex
- Safe uneventful flights to St. Louis and back to Ghana
- His guidance and leading as Erik and Melinda prepare for their wedding July 23rd
- Provision of an automobile to use for four weeks

Want to learn more about my first year at the Rafiki Village Ghana? I will be at St. Paul's E-Free Church, 9801 Olive, Creve Coeur, on July 10th.

For other times please call or e-mail:

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"Working for the Lord" with you,



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