



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“. . .and I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing”* (Genesis 12:2 b, c).

Dear family and friends,

If my memory serves me correctly, this is a portion of the Scripture that was written on my very first newsletter when God called me to work with the Rafiki Foundation in Africa. I remember the emphasis which I used from that Scripture. It was the section where God called Abraham out from his land to another land. In fact, since that time, if anyone asks me, “How did you come to work with Rafiki?” I answer, “It was while I was studying God’s Word, in Genesis.” I typically continue my “speech” by saying something like, “I was challenged by God’s call on Abraham’s life to leave his country and with Abraham’s obedience to do so.” Someone asked me this question again not long ago and I replied with the same rehearsed answer.

September 12, 2008, is the beginning of my seventh year serving with the Rafiki Foundation. Undoubtedly, I have changed in many ways, but I hope I have matured in my faith as I have learned to trust God’s faithfulness more and in the way I understand His holy Word as He reveals Himself to me. I have recently studied this Genesis 12 Scripture again, this time with a different emphasis.

I would like to place the emphasis on portions of the second verse of Genesis 12. *“I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing.”* We use the word “bless” so freely in our vocabulary, but what does this portion of the promise to Abraham mean? God didn’t bless Abraham as an individual for his own benefit, but Abraham is blessed so that he and those who follow him will be a blessing to a myriad of generations to come.

God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants and he would have them through his own “seed” whom we now know to be his son Isaac. Over many years this family line became multitudinous, just as God promised, when He said they would be like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. And we also know now this would eventually be the line through which the Messiah, Jesus Christ would be born, the One through whom we are blessed by our salvation and the ability to understand His Word. We were created for this—to worship the King of Kings as we see Him in our study of the Scriptures, as we apply them to our lives, and as we are used to impact the lives of others for the Kingdom.

This is what God has called us as individuals and the Rafiki Foundation as an organization to do. Can you imagine the generations who can potentially be impacted by God’s Word through Rafiki?

Rafiki has ten Villages in Africa. When all ten are fully operational Rafiki will have the potential to care for, “to bless” about 3,000 children. Allow me to bring you up to date on the priorities that God has given to the Rafiki Foundation as we strive to serve and care for the people in Africa. They are:

- To see that the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed to all Rafiki participants. (We have a Rafiki Bible Study that is studied everyday individually and in groups by every child and worker at each Village.)
- To care for orphans (especially those affected by the Aids epidemic).
- To educate the children.
- To keep the children in good health.
- To replicate Rafiki’s work (Satellite Villages).
- To assist the surrounding communities through quarterly medical clinics.
- To offer special programs (i.e. Pastor’s conferences).

## News about Rafiki Village Ghana Bible Studies

A couple of years ago the Rafiki Foundation started to write its own Bible study for use in our Villages. We started in Genesis and now we are in Numbers.



NATIONAL WORKER BIBLE STUDY

As the Village director, I have the privilege each morning to lead the Bible study for the MiniMissionaries, the cooks, the security men, the gardener, maintenance, and laundry staff as well as the assistant mothers.

I would like to tell you some stories about how lives are being changed as a result of time spent in God’s Word. One of the lessons was Psalm 66. I asked the group one morning, how has God shown you His power and His might this week? Moses, the laundry man, told me a story. He said that somehow his two goats became untied from their leash. The goats

then proceeded to go onto another man's property. The man shot the goats dead. Then a couple of days later the same man's goats came onto Moses' property. His first thought was to go and shoot them in retaliation. But then his wife suggested to him to let it be. Moses listened to his wife. Moses saw God's power to control himself and not retaliate. His story continued. He then said he saw God's power again the same week when one of his other goats gave birth. Normally goats only give birth to one goat or maybe two, but Moses' goat this time gave birth to three healthy goats! Only God has that kind of power!



ROS LIBBIE SEATON TEACHES THE SEVENTH GRADERS

In a class of seventh graders there has been a lot of thinking through the meaning of religious syncretism as we studied Numbers 22 about Balaam and Balak. These are some of their responses.

Student One – "I will compare what is being said with whether it is in line with God's Word."

Student Two – "I will spend time studying the Bible diligently so that I am so familiar with what the Bible says and teaches and what it doesn't."

Student Three – "I know religious syncretism is Satan's way of leading people astray."



ROS AMY KECTHAM WITH THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE BIBLE CLASS

In our fifth and sixth grade combined Bible class, some of the students seem to have some trouble grumbling in the houses with their mothers. Isn't this wonderful that they can at least recognize it as

grumbling? God is working in their lives. This is what one has said.

Student One – "One time I was given plenty of housework and I started to grumble, but then I remembered about the Israelites and I stopped myself and did my work."

This next student had a sudden realization through his study of Numbers.

Student Two – "We are God's chosen people, too! It wasn't only the Israelites that God loved."

Another fifth grader was impressed that God could not lie, like man lies. So she took this as a challenge and said:

Student Three – "When I am about to start lying, I stop myself and I don't do it, because I know God wants me to be holy like Him." (She even remembered our Leviticus study!)

You see God continues to be faithful to His people through the promise that He gave to Abraham thousands of years ago. We are enjoying the blessings that God gave Abraham. The children and the employees are enjoying God's blessing through Abraham and these generations at Rafiki will continue to carry on the blessings of Jesus Christ to their children and their children's children.

*Please pray that we can be a Village that will be a blessing in Ghana in Christ for many generations to come.*

Thank you for supporting me all of these six years in Africa. You have been a wonderfully loving, caring, prayerful, and generous group of people that I would have never even dreamed of getting, yet God has given me you. And for that I am extremely grateful.

I have had no indication from the Lord that He is calling me out of this ministry with Rafiki and I am delighted with that. In faith I will proceed with boldness with the Lord's continued call on my life to be in Africa with the Rafiki Foundation. I hope you will consider joining me another two years for my fourth term—to be an ongoing blessing to the people God has called us to serve here and for all those He will bring. For it is by faith alone, through grace alone, for His glory alone.

With love and gratitude,

*Cathy*

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