



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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April 2008

Dear Family and Friends,

Have you ever been asked, "So what's new in your life since I last saw you?" Well, let's see! Rafiki Village Uganda grew by thirteen children in just a month, bringing us to a total of ninety-six children ranging from five months to ten years old. We now have Rafiki Mothers and families in all twelve cottages including a mother-in-training in the training cottage. We have been blessed by the arrival of two babies among those thirteen children, one being a five-month-old girl named Mercy and the other a seven-month-old named Peter.



BABIES PETER AND MERCY AT RAFIKI

We have also seen the addition of Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Patience, Moses, Moses, and Isaac, all such wonderful biblical names for children who have had nothing before they came here. We have been joined by our third set of twins, Gloria Babirye and Olivia Nakato. Yes, I think you can honestly say that



BOAZ BEFORE RAFIKI

God has greatly grown our family. Once when we were first married, Stu and I joked about having at least ten children. Now in addition to our own girls, God has given us a very full family indeed, one that we help take care of, play with, and, most of all, pray over.



A NEW HOME FOR BOAZ

So what else is new at Rafiki? Well, this school year started with the addition of forty-eight new day students into our primary and junior secondary schools. What a huge undertaking this was, as Rafiki schools opened their doors to the needy children in the villages around our site. Each student was an orphan, who according to local officials, would have no opportunity for education, without the intervention of God. Each student was given a uniform, books, school supplies, breakfast, and lunch as part of their education. What excitement there was for our resident students who were able to become friends with the "dailies" as the new students were nicknamed by one resident student! After the initial flurry of activity settled, we had remaining forty-four students, who have just successfully completed their first term. They love the school, the teachers, the curriculum (which they say is very hard), and especially the breakfast and lunch that is served each day. One guardian told us with tears in her eyes that often she did not have food to even give her child one meal a day, and here Rafiki was giving him two. She was praising God as she told us. Now with one term under their belts, it is amazing to see how far God has brought these young ones that He has chosen to be educated at Rafiki so they can be future godly contributors to Uganda.



BREAKFAST IN THE DINING HALL FOR THE DAILIES

In addition, we have not yet completed all the construction for this year at the Rafiki Village. We will soon begin construction on the first residence hall at the Village site. This hall will house twenty older boys and will have a Ugandan couple as the house parents. The plans have been received from the Home Office and when Stu returns from his medical stint in the States, he will begin work on getting the appropriate building permits. We are hoping to break ground before we leave on furlough. Yes, it is our furlough year and we are excited about the opportunities ahead to see so many of you and to share with you in person the things that are "new" in our lives here in Uganda.

We have had a busy year on the personal front also. Marsha returned to the States in March to be with her brothers and sisters and to spend time with her mother before the Lord came to take her home on March 16, just before Marsha's return to Uganda was scheduled. God's timing, as always, was perfect as Marsha's mom was able to recognize her and enjoy being with her in those days before she passed. Stu, meanwhile, has experienced periodic atrial fibrillation in the past couple of months which necessitated his return to San Antonio to see the group of doctors that had cared for him in his initial cancer treatment and complications. It has been an opportunity for him to be thoroughly checked over and to have a procedure that may correct his heart arrhythmia. He has had eight appointments so far and has at least five more scheduled. He has also undergone a procedure called catheter ablation to settle down the areas of the heart that are causing the arrhythmia. He is planning on returning to Uganda mid-April, provided his doctors have released him. Lisa and Melanie are finishing their junior and sophomore years respectively at Covenant College amid the flurry of planning for a December 2008 wedding for Lisa and Jonathan.

Our furlough is approaching rapidly. We will be leaving Uganda on June 18 and returning on August 6. We have already scheduled opportunities to speak in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois. We would love to be able to share the work of Rafiki with you personally if at all possible. We will be spending the first week in the States in the Staunton, Virginia, area and then go to Florida for enrichment week on June 30. We will be speaking in the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, area on July 6. Afterwards we will be flying to the Midwest to Auburn, Indiana, and surrounding areas until we leave on August 6. Since Stu has been in the States while this letter is being written, we will be sending out a more detailed itinerary so that you will know where we will be speaking. If you would like us to share with you and your friends what God is doing in our lives and the lives of so many children here at Rafiki Village Uganda, please feel free to e-mail us or contact us. We will be happy to set up a time and place to meet with you personally. During this separation of over a month, we have become even more certain that God has called us to His work here in Uganda. We are so very thankful for you, our friends and supporters who through your prayers and gifts have made it possible for us to follow the dream that God has given us. May God richly bless you for the part you are playing in His ministry!

Rejoicing in Him always,

Stu, Marsha, Lisa, Melanie

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