



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258 • 210-244-2600 • FAX 210-244-2605

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Dear Family and Friends,

Happy New Year! Or perhaps it would reflect our sentiments better to say to you, "Have a Blessed New Year!" The end of a year is a time for looking back on the many things that God has done in that year while the beginning of the New Year is a time of looking forward to what God is going to do in the future. Whichever way you look at it, we see that it is exciting because we do not have a boring God.

What God Has Done in Construction:

First of all, even the fact that we are here writing this letter to you from Uganda in January 2008 is a miraculous demonstration of what God has done for us. We are back in Uganda, productive, busy, and happy, after almost a year of chemotherapy for Stu in the States. There is no place that we would rather be. This year has seen Stuart busy in construction in three locations: our Rafiki Village, Rafiki Village Rwanda, and the Satellite Village in Mukono, Uganda. Here at this site, God has allowed us to complete in the year: three new cottages, now filled with all boys, a new primary school, now occupied and put to use, and the renovations to the old girls' center, completing its change into the new Junior Secondary building. In the Satellite Village, eight buildings are under roof including four cottages, two residences, the dining hall, and the school. In Rwanda, five ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) are now living on site, including a new couple, Bev and Ken Merrill, who just arrived in December. The duplex and a residence house have been completed, a cottage is near completion, and seven other buildings are under roof. Throughout all of the traveling and the construction, by God's grace, Stuart has continued to be strong during ongoing chemotherapy with tests showing no reoccurrence of cancerous tumors throughout the year.



STU AND ALFRED, SATELLITE VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN



MARSHA JUMPING ROPE AT FIELD DAY



LISA HELPING IN CLOTHES RELAY



MEL HELPING WITH CHRISTMAS TREE DAY

What God Has Accomplished at School:

God has equally blessed our school in the 2007 school year. From a total of seven national teachers, we have grown to a staff of fourteen teachers who will handle the expansion that the school will experience later this month. This number does not include the four ROS teachers we also have or those who are helping with the coaching that has seen so many children become successful in the classroom.

We have seen amazing growth academically and spiritually in the students this year due to the wonderful curriculum and the new Rafiki Bible Study. The new Bible study has also impacted our teacher's lives to the point where Marsha can enter a staff room and find them animatedly discussing a question on the Bible study rather than the latest scandal from the newspaper. This has led to deeper teaching in the classroom and a real increase in our students' understanding of the amazing God who brought them here to the Rafiki Village.



JSS STUDENT DOING HER PART IN THE RELAY

We have seen our first field day ever at the school which was a resounding success. For the first time Junior Secondary students participated in the all-school events helping them to realize that we truly are a "real" school now. Following our field day, we had our awards day which included the graduation of two of our transition students who had faithfully persevered through the year. Both

girls have now obtained excellent jobs with first-rate benefits using the weaving and sewing skills they have learned at Rafiki.

What God Has Accomplished in the Coiner Family:

Yes, the Coiner family was together again this December in Uganda, possibly for the last time. Lisa is now a junior at Covenant College going for a Bachelor in Biology degree while Melanie is a sophomore there in the pre-med program. Lisa is engaged to a wonderful Christian man in the school and is planning a December 2008 wedding. We praise God that it was a fantastic three weeks with precious memories that will last for years. We thank God that the girls were able to spend time with the children that they knew so well before leaving for university and were able to connect with the many new children who have joined us while they were away at school. We also thank God that they consider Uganda their home.

What God has Planned for the Future:

We can only imagine the incredibly great things that lie ahead for this Village! In His wisdom and creativity He has opened the way for the Rafiki School to take in day students from among the orphaned and disadvantaged children that live in the nearby villages. Starting on January 21, 2008, we will see the arrival of forty-four new day students which will greatly increase the godly impact the Village can have on the surrounding area. We are excited to see what God is going to do as He integrates these new needy lives with the security and the joy that the resident students already have. We are waiting expectantly to see what God will bring to us in the way of new children to fill the two cottages that are being renewed for new occupants. Two Rafiki Mother candidates are in training for those cottages with a third candidate expected to

start this month. We can't wait to see the growth we will experience from our present eighty-three resident children.

Concerning construction, God has always provided just the buildings we need when we need them, so we know that if He plans for us to grow to over 110 children, He will provide the facilities to accomplish exactly that in this upcoming year. We, along with the surrounding national villages, are excited about future medical clinics after having had our first successful one in 2007. Maybe we will see medical staff that we know personally volunteer for future clinics here in Uganda. So God already has given us glimpses of what He is going to do here in Uganda.

As for the Coiners we know that God has given us one of His great gifts in allowing us to be a part of what He is doing in Africa and we can't wait to see what is coming up. We are now into our new two-year term of service and will be journeying to the States for a short furlough, tentatively available from June 22nd through August 5th. We are willing to travel to speak and share wherever God opens doors. We have a need for a car and look forward to how this might be provided for us. Please e-mail us if you are interested in sharing with us the excitement of all that God is accomplishing in the lives that Rafiki has touched in Africa. We look forward to seeing you again!



The Coiners (together once again for Christmas in Uganda) desire for you all the joy and the blessing that God has for you in the New Year.

Excited to be serving in Uganda,

Stu, Marsha, Lisa, Melanie

Stu, Marsha, Lisa, and Melanie Coiner

PO Box 50 Wakiso Central, Wakiso Town, Uganda, EAST AFRICA

E-mail: coiners4@yahoo.com

Mobile Phones: Stu 011-256-772-700-562

Marsha 011-256-772-700-559