



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”*  
(Psalm 90:12 NIV).

Dear family and friends,



MELANIE AND ROSS WITH STU

“5. . .4. . .3. . .2. . .1. . .Happy New Year!” Actually it is a happy new decade. As we counted down the seconds to the new decade with our daughter Melanie and her new husband Ross, we realized that we will be doing a lot of counting down in the New Year. As most of you know, we are presently in Florida at the Home Office while Stuart undergoes chemotherapy for his colon cancer, which had returned in four spots. So what are we counting down? We are counting down the number of chemo treatments that Stu has remaining before we can return to Uganda. Five. . .four. . .three. . .two. . .one. . .PET scan! Yes, we have five more treatments before they can do another PET scan to check his progress. After four initial treatments, Stu’s four spots had been drastically reduced, much to our oncologist’s surprise. One spot was gone, two were mostly gone, and the remaining spot was less than half the original size. What a blessing! So we are busy counting down the treatments.

We are also counting down the months. Stu can’t have his next PET scan until March. So, we have two more months before we get confirmation that the cancer is under control, and we can book our tickets back. Stuart also can accurately count out a minute because his brand new pacemaker gives sixty beats a minute; it is so accurate you can set your watch by it. Stu is recovering well from the pacemaker surgery. He is excited because this new

development means that he can resume his normal active lifestyle and play basketball and soccer with the boys over in Africa.

We are not idly sitting around and counting on our fingers and toes as we wait to return. Stu is helping out in the storeroom with curriculum, calendars, and packing boxes. Marsha will be writing the primary one and two (grades one and two) science curriculum for the Villages. She is hoping to finish before we leave for Uganda. When you add to that all the doctor’s visits that go with chemotherapy, we are very busy indeed.



TIMOTHY, NUMBER NINETY-NINE

You may ask, “Why are you so excited about the countdown?” It is because we can’t wait to return to the children in the Village and to the students in the school. We are almost counting UP to 100 with the addition of Timothy who makes ninety-nine children in Rafiki Village Uganda. He arrived in December just in time for Christmas at his new home. We can’t wait to meet him. In the Village also, the school has

another full year under its belt, ending the school year in December. This is the second full year that we have had day-students studying with us.

Another exciting development for the new school year is the increase in the training of teachers and headmasters from schools sponsored by partner church denominations. The training for these teachers and headmasters will include training in biblical worldview integration, methods for teaching the Rafiki school curriculum, and (with great excitement) training in teaching the RBS (Rafiki Bible Study).



CHILDREN WHO CAN BE IMPACTED BY THE RBS

This is the same Bible study that everyone at our Rafiki Villages and schools is studying. Rafiki will be supplying this Bible study and Rafiki school curriculum to these national schools, often numbering up to 800 to 900 students per school. We can't wait to begin counting the number of students and teachers that will be impacted by these studies in the decade to come. Our prayer is that God will use them to change the face of Africa.

We have really been able to count on you during this time of treatment and preparation for further ministry. How many cards and e-mails and calls and prayers of encouragement have we received? Too many to count! We so appreciate your love and concern and loyalty to us. Our sovereign God has brought much good to our lives despite the unexpected roads we have traveled. We are so looking forward to sharing with you firsthand again the work that God is doing in Uganda. We are praying now that God will bless you as richly as He has blessed us.

Blessed by God,

*Stu, Marsha, Lisa, Melanie*

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