



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“... and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God”
(Colossians 2:19 NLT).

Dear Family and Friends,

We are, thankfully, entering a season of rain and coolness here in Uganda after experiencing an unusually hot and dry spell. As you are entering the spring season of your year, our thoughts here have naturally turned to new growth. God is the author of all new growth, and we have loved watching His hand at work here in Rafiki Village Uganda. Our village had seemed to go into a time of no visible expansion, but little did we know that underneath the surface, God was preparing the seeds of the growth that we are now seeing.



OUR THREE NEWEST RAFIKI RESIDENTS

Growth in Our Children's Center

Yes, we can joyfully report that we have opened a new cottage. In December we were able to share with you that God had given us three wonderful Rafiki mother trainees, and now Mama Rosemary has opened a new cottage with three little boys—Jeremiah, David, and Michael. All three are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four months old. It is almost like having triplets. The three boys are here and are settling in very well. We are praying for further growth as we still have a Rafiki mother without a cottage at this time. Several new avenues for obtaining children have begun opening up in the last few days

and we are excited that truly we will experience a spring time of a great increase in numbers here at Rafiki Village. ***Please pray with us for more children, especially girls so that this village will have full cottages in 2005.***

Growth in Construction

Once again, the sounds of hammers, saws, and big “tippers” bringing sand and rock are echoing around the village. Stuart is involved in the construction of a new duplex for Rafiki Overseas Staff and a new cottage for the Rafiki Children's Center. This is exciting news for all of us as we are experiencing growth of buildings once again on site. The duplex is moving along rapidly and is scheduled to be ready in May of this year. One of the most exciting things has been that Stu is subcontracting out the work to former employees of the Rafiki construction crew, who are acting as the contractors on these projects. They have brought to the job site all the skills and high standards that they learned while constructing the buildings here. In addition, Stu has had the great joy of seeing one of the main contractors having daily morning devotions for his work crew before starting the day's work. Now that is real growth in God's eyes.



THE NEW DUPLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION

New Growth in the Coiner Family

No, we are not talking growth in numbers, but growth in the areas of God's leading. When God called us to Uganda, we had no idea of the many ways that He would stretch us and mold us. Lisa has been teaching with Marsha as a teacher's assistant in the combined three- and four-year-old preschool since August. Starting with the third term in April, she will be co-teaching the three-year-old preschool with a new temporary addition to our staff, Cricket Meyer. What wonderful experience God is giving her for her future as she will be going to college in the fall to double major in early childhood education and psychology. Melanie is taking junior classes in her international school as a sophomore and is being stretched in those areas. Marsha is co-writing new three-year-old curriculum with Joanne Colvin as well as teaching in the preschool, and she loves every minute of the stretching that God is doing with her. Stu, of course, is thrilled to be back in construction, interacting with the men and all of the various suppliers around the city. The Coiner household is back to being Grand Central Station as all these subcontractors and workers are dropping in all day long. We have learned that privacy in Africa is a luxury. ***Pray that God will help us to remain flexible and teachable in all the stretching moments of life.***

Our Furlough

We will be coming back to the States late in June thru early August and would love to see and speak with you as God leads. What does this have to do with growth? Well, we will be leaving our daughter in Georgia for college while we return to the ministry that God has given us here in Uganda. This will be a very stretching time for all of us as a family. We are also praying that God will show us new areas of growth as we are available to share about the vision of the Rafiki Foundation and how God is using it in Africa. We will be arriving and leaving from Richmond, Virginia, this summer and will need the use of a vehicle to do some extensive travel during our five-week furlough. We would love to see as many people as possible and are open to speaking engagements as God provides. E-mail us if you would like more frequent updates on God's work here.

Growing with Him in Uganda,

Stu, Marsha, Lisa, & Melanie

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