



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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September 2003

Dear Family and Friends,

"Something old, something new; something borrowed, something blue." I could not help but think that this old wedding adage really fit our return from furlough. Seven and one-half weeks after landing in the United States, we touched down in Uganda and headed out to the *Rafiki* Village site, home again.

Something Old: Stuart's job. Stuart was able to pick up right where he left off in June with his construction job. In fact, we landed at 8:00 A.M. on Friday, and he was walking the site by 10:30 A.M., totally at home once again. It was exciting to see the Village Girls' Center so close to completion. We will have our first class of girls, starting this October 1st. The looms are being assembled, the kitchen completed, final painting is being completed, and the girls have been selected. We are well on our way to being a more comprehensive *Rafiki* Village. In addition, the duplex for our two single ROS personnel will be completed in the middle of October. The headmaster for the preschool, Joanne Colvin, and the village girls' center director, Shirlene Farris, will be living there. **Please pray that the remaining construction work for this year can be completed on time, within budget, with good quality, and without injury to our workers.**

Our Ten Rafiki Children: It was so wonderful to drive up *Rafiki* Lane and see ten pairs of little hands begin waving frantically as they welcomed their aunts Melanie, Lisa, and Marsha, and Uncle "Too" home again from America. We truly felt we were back where we belonged, where God had placed us three years ago. The girls and Marsha have picked up working with the children on Saturday afternoon again. What fun! **Please pray that these Saturday afternoons will not only impact the Rafiki children but also our daughters as God gives them a heart for those less fortunate than themselves and the drive to be used by Him in their lives.**



Painting with water on Saturday afternoon

Something New: Marsha's new job as preschool teacher and assistant grandmother. The truth be told, we came back to a lot of new changes in the *Rafiki* Village. One of the most exciting was that Marsha will be one of the new preschool teachers for the *Rafiki* Village preschool. She will be teaching the three-year olds starting in mid-September. The school will initially start up in the unused wing of the dining hall. Rooms have been divided, equipment and books have been acquired, and different learning centers have been set up. As soon as curriculum arrives from the States, the school will begin with six of the ten children being old enough to start. In addition, Marsha will serve as the assistant grandmother, assisting in training of the mamas and helpers of our children. The sad part of the good news is that it was necessary for Marsha to resign as

the children's supervisor of the Kampala day women's BSF class. **Pray that Marsha will be a godly teacher of three-year-olds with a positive impact on her students and for the curriculum to quickly arrive.**

The New Preschool Building: Prior to our departure in June, funds had been received to begin the first of three school buildings that will eventually be out on the property. The first building will be a preschool and kindergarten for the site. The walls are rapidly rising from the foundation and the building itself should be finished in December, in time for the second term to start in January. **Please pray for the timely completion of the school building for the new term in January.**

Thirty-three New Partner Churches: The recent Pastors' Conference in Kampala has been a great success. Pastors and their wives were taught for a period of five days by David Wells, Ken Jones, and Tim Hoke. From this conference, thirty-three churches of various denominations have signed up to be partner churches with the *Rafiki* Village. Not only does this give *Rafiki* much needed exposure in the community, but it is proving to be a resource pool for potential mamas for the village children's center. **Please pray that we will soon get new mamas and experience growth in our village children's center. Pray also that *Rafiki* will have a godly impact on the community.**

New Neighbors: God has gifted us with a new family living next door in the first ROS house, the Egglestons from Richmond, Virginia. This has proven to be a blessing to us since they have a thirteen-year old daughter, Casey, who has become friends with our two daughters, especially our fourteen-year-old, Melanie. This has been an ongoing prayer request for the last two years that Melanie would get a close friend here in Africa. God's timing is always perfect. Mike Eggleston will be taking over the job as finance manager (the one that Marsha previously held) and Lissa Eggleston will be our new grandmother (in charge of all training for the mamas and their helpers). **Please pray that this family will quickly adjust to life in Africa and praise for the friendships that have sprung up.**

Something Borrowed: A conversion van, a home, etc. We wish to thank from our hearts all of the wonderful people who gave and lent to our family during this furlough time. It made the two months memorable and much more comfortable. Through these willing givers, God provided our family with a conversion van for the many miles of auto travel (from Illinois to Virginia, from Michigan to North Carolina) and with a very comfortable home to spend time in as a family in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Many others provided meals, rooms to sleep in, their homes for coffees, and willing ears to hear all that we had to say about *Rafiki* Village Uganda. We are grateful that over 60% of our financial support has been pledged for the next two years. **May God richly bless each and every one of you for all that you so bountifully gave to us.**

Something Blue: The blue skies of Uganda. It is no small thing to be thanking God for the blue skies of home. When we look out in the morning over the beautiful site that He has grown here in Uganda, we are continually reminded of the many miracles that He has worked not only to put us here but to keep us up and running. It is God's work here at *Rafiki* Village Uganda, a work that is far too big for any one family to accomplish. As we see the magnitude of the organization and the impact that it is having on so many lives in Africa, we can only thank Him over and over again for each one of you and the priceless part that each of you plays in what He is building to His glory over here. **May God give you a vision of what He is doing and the great joy that comes from knowing you are a part of it.**

We are overjoyed to be back home and doing the work that God has chosen for us to do. We would appreciate your prayers for our family, their health, safety, and adjustment back into the *Rafiki* Village lifestyle.

Rejoicing in Him,

Stu, Marsha, Lisa, Melanie

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NOTE: The *Rafiki* web site has been revised. Please visit at www.rafiki-foundation.org and find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.