



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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February 2009

“The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure” (Isaiah 33:5-6 NIV).

Greetings from Ghana, West Africa!

“Good morning.” “Fine morning.” This is the lovely way that Ghanaians greet each other, with a salute (men) or a little curtsy (women). *“You are most welcome”* to guests at expected appointments or at unexpected opportunities. As a newcomer to Ghana, I am grateful for the affection and kindnesses that have characterized my first month as a new resident. More than this, however, I am keenly appreciative of the faith of the Christians in Ghana, and especially those at our Rafiki Village. It has been a delight to begin to know our staff and children!

Do you know the best way to get to know someone? It’s by praying and studying God’s Word together. I thank God that He has placed me in an environment where His Word and prayer are integral aspects of my life, be it my home life, work life, or social milieu. As a Village, we have all been studying Psalms 73-76 over the last month. If you have not read these Psalms lately, my short, inadequate paraphrase is this: God is absolutely sovereign over all events in history and over all people in all places in the world. He alone decides who is lifted up and who is brought down. Engaging with God, with this knowledge, reverently, will result in a complete change in one’s thinking and one’s perspective on life. Rather than wonder why things are as they are, we begin and continue to appreciate God’s purposes, becoming united with Him in our individual and collective desires and plans. God is the master weaver; He threads the hours and days together to create a design that He alone knows and uses for His own glory. What a thrill it is to get a glimpse of His work in Ghana!

The Sure Foundation for Your Times

Rafiki Village Ghana was the first of Rafiki’s ten Villages to be established. Rafiki Ghana has provided a sure foundation for the children

through the ministry of the staff and the ongoing ministry of His Word. These children, like all Rafiki Village children, have had teaching from Scripture since the first day they arrived. As an adult convert to Jesus Christ, who did not have the benefit of Bible study until adulthood, I rejoice in the grace of God toward all in our Villages. Only God’s Word has the means to prepare and strengthen children for the challenges they will face later in life, providing a “sure foundation.” The application of biblical truths will surpass all other knowledge in giving children a solid base “for your times,” that is, for all times through eternity. It is a blessing for me to participate in the education of students from Pre-school three-year-olds through Junior Secondary eighth-graders based on a biblical world view, systematic Bible lessons, and a Classical approach to education. Having finished studying the Pentateuch (Genesis—Deuteronomy), we now will continue our Old Testament study with the book of Joshua. We will march forward in our collective strength to know God better as we accompany Israel into the Promised Land.



TEACHING STAFF



THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS

A Rich Store of Salvation and Wisdom and Knowledge

As God provides the foundation, He also "outfits" us with all we need to live the life He has planned for us. A building needs more than just a foundation; once it is completed—it is furnished to make it useful. Unfurnished buildings are actually quite common in Africa, where many do not have the means to purchase even basic items such as beds, tables, or cabinets. Salvation, wisdom, and knowledge are three spiritual "treasures" that Isaiah mentions. He reminds Israel that God Himself is sufficient for all their needs, just as Jesus Christ today is sufficient to meet our needs. Rafiki Ghana has a new residence hall that will be occupied by the oldest boys once it is furnished. However, these boys, and the girls here already have spiritual treasures stored up in them; "a rich store" of a godly upbringing on which to build their futures. Their secondary education will also provide them with a rich store of practical skills in technical and vocational subjects. They have had a great beginning, having learned to weave baskets from the time they were in the Primary Five class (fifth grade), and they are doing a great job! You may purchase their baskets at the Rafiki web site when they are available (http://www.rafiki-foundation.org/exchange_images/homedecor.html)



The Fear of the Lord Is the Key to This Treasure

Isaiah's conclusion brings us to the way that God provides these rich spiritual treasures—by living in reverent fear of Him. In other words, to live humbly and submissively with God, knowing that He alone gives our lives meaning and purpose. Solomon knew the seductiveness of this thinking and warns, in Proverbs 1:7, that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." Prayerfully, these children will have the faith to fight this sinful arrogance, with good moral choices that reflect their knowledge of and fear of God.

If you have stopped receiving my monthly prayer letters (due to my computer issues) and want to receive them, please contact me at ejcolvin@gmail.com. If you would like to get involved with God's ministry to Africa through Rafiki, as a short-term missionary or as a prayer group leader, please contact Rafiki at 407-557-2850.

In his love,

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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information about your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.