



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?” (Deuteronomy 4:8).

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya!

Happy New Year!

Kenya's New President

God has answered the prayers of many Kenyans for a significant change in the nation by the election of a new president, Mr. Mwai Kibaki. We are very happy for the Kenyans whom we love and have come to serve; we are celebrating this victory for the nation. Kenya has experienced a change in the ruling political party for the first time in its young democracy.

The new president was announced on Sunday, after the runner-up graciously conceded the election. Then the inauguration took place on Monday, the very next day! So, within four days of the election, Kenya's new president has taken up residence in the State House and presides over Kenya. Please pray that President Kibaki's goal of eradicating corruption will be met through the supernatural power of God.

Kenya's New Rafiki Girls' Center

The girls' center opened at the *Rafiki Village* on October 7th, with the nine girls pictured, ages fifteen to eighteen. We are, from left to right,

front row: Jane Pope (director), Betsy Kreamer (teacher), Mary, Shelmith, Gladys, and Damaris. Back row, left to right: Faith, Veronica, Perpetua, Sharon Bylsma (teacher) in back of her, Joanne (teacher), Agnes, Mercy. (Dutch Bylsma and Donna Read, teachers, not pictured.) Behind the girls are two of our four girls' center buildings; we are spoiled.



It is a joy to teach cooking to the girls, and to guide them in biblical principles for interacting with each other. They also have Bible study/prayer, English, sewing, and art classes. We will have a new group of eight girls join them in April. Please pray that the girls' artistic skills will progress so they can begin producing painted tin products for sale at the *Rafiki Exchange* (www.rafiki-foundation.org). Also pray that we, the teachers, will be effective in teaching and

modeling God's precepts for living and working together.

Kenya's New Rafiki Children's Center

Six cottages, a medical clinic, the dining hall/kitchen, and two ROS houses are under construction finally. One of the challenges has been the material upon which the RCC buildings will be built—quarry fill. But we have a solution and the work continues, slowly but surely. We are not sure yet when the cottages will be ready, the time when we can receive children. It was a delight to see the almost-completed RCC (Phase 1) in Kampala, Uganda, while on vacation in December, since it is the same plan. We know that God has the perfect time for completion of phase one in Kenya and we trust His timing. In the meantime, our resident pediatrician, Dr. Dan Pope, arrived with Jane, his wife, in August. While he may not have any children to serve, we certainly seem to keep him busy with our own ailments. Please pray that our teammate Dennis Read will heal quickly from a broken bone on each foot. Also pray that Carol Kranz will heal from a long-term struggle with TB.

A New Level of Trust in God in BSF

Our evening women's BSF class has 485 members and fifty students in the school program. We started the study of John's gospel in September and already several class members have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We have seen God raise up the leaders necessary for the class and have been greatly encouraged. One of the major themes of *John* is that Jesus is the light of the world. We have seen His light on three nights when political rallies adjacent to our host church—which would have caused great disruption in the past—took place without incident this time around. The

women have commented frequently that as they live through this historic time, the teachings of the Bible are more vivid and real than ever before. Please pray that members will continue to enter into relationship with Christ and that we, as leaders, will glorify God by our faithfulness.

A New Plan for 2003

In 2003, I will continue to teach cooking to the girls at the girls' center and supervise preparation of lunches for twelve to fourteen daily for the first semester, until the end of March. When the RCC is far enough along to need a headmistress for the primary school, I will fill that role. Please pray for me to remain flexible, willing to serve God as He calls. I plan to move house sometime in 2003 to shorten my daily commute to the *Rafiki* Village. Of course we all look forward to the day when God will provide a paved surface on Kasarani Road; I don't think we will miss the long "off-road" driving experience. I continue to encourage Josephine, my housekeeper, to pursue another career while she is working part-time for me. I look forward to seeing how God will lead her.

One of the nicest things God has done for us here is to make available cell phones which can access e-mail via infrared. I can now send and receive e-mail much more easily. This will help me to stay in touch with you with much less frustration. I am so grateful for your encouraging e-mails and letters; thank you for remembering our work in Kenya and for praying God's will for us.

You are in my heart,



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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,