



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed”*  
(Joshua 23:14).

Greetings from Joanne Colvin in Africa,

I am writing to you now from Kampala, Uganda, in East Africa where I have been serving God with Rafiki since 2003. The Rafiki Village has grown to care for seventy-five former orphans, providing nutritious food, medical care, loving families, and a top-of-the-line educational program. In addition, approximately eighteen girls will begin their new adventure preparing for Junior Secondary School at our Village this year. Our national staff is dedicated and embraces Rafiki’s vision to be God’s agents as He prepares these beautiful babes to become productive citizens of Uganda. We are all so thankful for your participation in God’s work through Rafiki. Our kids are growing up!



UGANDA AWARD WINNERS

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, BACK ROW: SAM, SHARON, THOMAS, AND SCOVIA. FRONT ROW: RICK, DERRICK, YOWERI, KEIDI, AND TENDO.

Here I am with our award winners for 2006 at the Rafiki Uganda Pre-primary and Primary Schools. Ten awards were given in five categories for a boy and a girl: best conduct, best athlete, most improvement, outstanding Christian character, and best all around student. I am so proud of all the students.

If you would like more information on how to get involved with Rafiki’s ministry, use the web site at [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org).

Well, enough about Uganda. What!? Yes sir, the move is coming very soon—to Monrovia, Liberia, where the Rafiki Village is under construction. Many of you have been supporters of Rafiki’s work for years and know the process that is required to get a Village started. The bricks and mortar always come first in reality. In our hearts, though, it’s the people who come first and carry us through the time when we have to calculate cement quantities and labor costs.

I am just now learning about the needs of the people of Liberia. Let’s test our knowledge together. The country is about the size of Tennessee, so how big is the population? Twenty million? Ten million? Three million? If you guessed only three million you would be close. Liberia is recovering from a fifteen-year period of conflict during which about “300,000 Liberians became refugees in other West African countries and are now slowly returning.” Another “300,000 are living in camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) within Liberia.” It is also estimated that “250,000 people are displaced, living in other people’s homes or squatting.” There is a “lack of basic security, food, and shelter. Facilities continue to be a major restraint for families to return home.” [This and other information quoted is from the web site [liberiapastandpresent.com](http://liberiapastandpresent.com)]



GIRL IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA



LIBERIA STREET SCENE

"The United Nations has sent nearly 15,000 troops to Liberia, currently the largest peacekeeping force in the world. At least one-fourth of the former combatants are believed to be child soldiers under the age of seventeen, most of whom were forced into fighting or lured into battles through drugs. The average life expectancy of a Liberian is about forty-eight years. The HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate is estimated at 11% and the infant mortality rate is 132 deaths for every 1,000 live births." Obviously, Liberia is a country with great needs. Unemployment is about 90%! What a privilege it will be to serve God where life has been so precarious.

There is good news, too. English is the official language of Liberia. This is most likely due to the fact that "Liberia, the second oldest independent country in Africa after Ethiopia, was established in 1847 by former slaves sent to West Africa by the American Colonization Society in the early 1800s. . . ." Many African American slaves were freed from slavery only on the condition that they emigrate to Africa. Now the descendants of these immigrants, Americo-Liberians, make up only 2.5% of the population. Most of the Liberian population (95%) is made up of indigenous African tribes. Liberia also has a relatively high adult literacy rate—is it 20%? 30%? 40%? No, it's over 57%!

To top it off, the rate of construction is outstanding. Rafiki is thrilled that we can complete Phase Two of construction simultaneously with Phase One. This means that we'll have a primary school building when the children arrive. You can imagine my joy in

knowing that we will be able to have school in a real school building in 2007.



THE PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION, DECEMBER 2006.

Now that I have completely confounded you about my "location," allow me to try to unravel the mystery by giving you my schedule between now and next May. If you would like me to visit with you and share more about Liberia (or Uganda) while I am in the States, please send me an e-mail at my address in Uganda below or at joannecolvin@yahoo.com

Feb.12, 2007	Depart Uganda
Feb.13- March 20	San Antonio (Boerne), TX
March 20-April 4	Florida (all over)
April 5-8	Georgia
April 9-12	North Carolina, Virginia
April 13-14	Baltimore, Maryland
April 15	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 16-17	Baltimore, Maryland
April 18-24	West Virginia, Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma
April 25-May 12	San Antonio (Boerne), TX
May 12	Depart for Liberia
May 13	Arrive in Monrovia, Liberia

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who have supported our work and continue to pray and give so generously of your time and resources.

For the glory of God,

*Joanne Colvin*

Joanne

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P.S. From the Home Office: Joanne is at 60% for her current term January-December, 2007.