



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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May 2009

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” (Romans 12:2-3).

Greetings from Ghana, West Africa,

When was the last time you taught someone something? If you are a teacher, it could have been just a few minutes or hours ago. Parents, have you instructed your children today out of necessity, rather than by choice? If you are a businessperson, military officer, engineer, geologist, administrator, or doctor, teaching may not be a regular part of your normal activities. Too bad, or “Sorry O,” as we say in Ghana! Teaching is so much fun, when those who are learning appreciate the God-given opportunity to improve their minds. Good teaching is that which transforms our thinking. Instruction that is beneficial makes us pause to consider and apply new knowledge or approaches to problem solving. This is what God intends for us through His Word. Scripture was divinely preserved for us through the apostles who personally heard the teachings of Jesus. To what end should we seek instruction? What effect should it have upon us, this “renewing” of the mind? Romans 12:3 teaches us that it should humble us, to think of ourselves soberly, seriously, without prejudice. Have you ever met a truly brilliant yet humble individual? Weren’t you inspired?



ONE-THIRD OF THE GROUP

At the Rafiki Village Ghana these days, we are tremendously inspired. We have a rare opportunity to teach those who are hungry for instruction and passionate about their education. These rare individuals came with small egos and even less to recommend them. They are our newest day-students, who attend the Rafiki Primary and Junior

Secondary School during the day and return home to their communities each afternoon. Perhaps you would like to come on a journey with them as they became part of our extended Rafiki family.



MEETING GIFTY

Hearing the News

It all started when the assistant to the Village director (pictured) visited a few nearby communities to tell people that Rafiki would have a day when children could come with their guardians to be considered as day-students. We had many visitors that day and interviewed over 100 children. Many came very early in the morning and waited until afternoon for their interviews. They were all dressed in Sunday outfits and very curious about this “renowned” place called Rafiki. Some students could hardly speak because they were awe-struck. Others were bold and decisive during their first interviews. We prayed, coaxed, and studied the children as much as was humanly possible when interviewing so many children in one day.

Invited to Return

The next step, after the initial screening, was the first assessment of each child’s educational level and acquired skills. In Africa, it is common for children of various ages to be found in the same classroom, due to breaks in their education for accumulation of funds, or the necessity of working with the rest of the family for a time. Therefore, age was not a

major criteria to use for the determination of educational level. We used assessments for math and English language skills to determine the approximate level of their previous education. The students shined in their determination to do the work without giving up, even though some of the questions were clearly beyond them. This perseverance is exactly the personality trait we were seeking! After a challenging morning of exams, we served the children a Ghanaian lunch of rice and stew and sent them on their way, with no more knowledge than they had before about their futures at Rafiki Schools. The faith that they showed was also inspiring. We made no promises, gave no indication of the next step, and gave no assurances because we were learning how to conduct this assessment for younger children. The children started teaching us about faith; our delight in their participation grew at each stage.

Accepting the Invitation



JAMES, HIS MOTHER AND SISTER

After a second, more particular assessment, eleven students were selected to become day-students starting with term two of school. Normally, this process would have taken place in October, in anticipation of starting at the beginning of the new Rafiki School year in January. However, we are certain that these students will be able to catch up by December. Orientation was held for the children and their guardians. Three hours of introductory information did not squelch their enthusiasm. One parent translated the instructions into Twi for guardians who did not speak English. All the parents and guardians committed to help the children to succeed at school. Once again, at the end of orientation, some of the students were not yet informed of their grade level, as we were still making final placements. Did that deter them? No, not at all! Older students, who had been in junior high classes before were, however, informed that they would probably be in the upper Primary classes at Rafiki, with the words, "Trust God, and trust Rafiki." They did.

Finally, Rafiki Students

The first day of term two at Rafiki Ghana was exciting for everyone. All eyes were on our day-students, whose first job was to pose for the photo below. Then came breakfast of tea and bread in the dining hall, which Rafiki offers to all day-students. After that, uniforms were distributed and the students changed into them before going to assembly. Now they truly felt like Rafiki students! One of the students was escorted to junior secondary school where he will join the JSS One class. The others walked to the combined primary/preschool assembly by the flagpole, in time for the Ghana national anthem. Introductions were made after singing the hymn of the week, from the Rafiki Bible Study curriculum. Then it was off to class to start learning.



DAY-STUDENTS FIRST DAY

We are so privileged to have the educational resources to offer these young people. They will continue to learn about languages (English, Twi, and French), math, science, and other academic subjects. Even more importantly, at Rafiki Schools they will also learn about the God who created them, who is seen in all of creation. They will hear about our Lord Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation that He freely offers as they study God's Word in their classes every day. We are blessed as we give; they are blessed as they receive all that God has for them. If you would like to participate in the education of these young people, or the education of our own Rafiki Village students, visit the Rafiki web site at www.rafiki-foundation.org.

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ROS #: 111