



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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November 2007

*“Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; rock badgers are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings’ palaces”*  
(Proverbs 30:24-28).

Greetings from Joanne in Liberia!

Life at the Rafiki Village Liberia is full of small yet important events that add up to sweet and significant milestones within the providence of God. Our not-so-little Village is becoming better known to residents and people all over Liberia. While the buildings are many (sixteen in all), the activity is a bit small, as are the number of inhabitants. However, as Scripture reminds us, small creatures are used by God, in His wisdom, to accomplish great things. Here is a little taste of what has been happening at our Rafiki Village in the last few months.

## Our First Little Girl is Growing



KAREN ELEVEN DAYS OLD



KAREN AT ABOUT THREE MONTHS

Rafiki’s number one baby is not so little anymore. Look at the difference three months makes! The photo on the left was taken at the hospital when we received Karen; she was eleven days old and 2.6 kg (5.7 lbs). Today she is quite round and chubby at three months; we are thrilled with her progress. This little one is teaching us about the significance of just one little child. So many people come to Liberia to help but are overwhelmed with the tremendous needs here. We are reminded that God helps one person at a time; His love is always effectual, even for one little child. In God’s providence, this baby came to Rafiki first, and has the attention of six mothers. Her need to be loved must have been great indeed. *Pray that Karen will continue to thrive. Please*

*also pray for the fragile health of the children “waiting” to come to Rafiki.*

## A Little Fish Goes a Long Way

If you were preparing a meal with fish for eight adults, how much would you use? You would probably start by thinking of how many fillets you might need, or how many packages of frozen fish you might buy. In Liberia, we count the fish, scales, and all, usually purchased from a local vendor who got it directly from the fisherman. A small barracuda (affectionately known as “cuda”) will easily serve up to twelve people. A small dried “bonie” would do the same, even though it’s only about eight inches in length and has very little meat, most of it being bones. In a country where people subsisted on grass and weeds during the war, a little meat is considered a big luxury. Our “little” meat twice a day is a great blessing to our mothers, as it will be to our children. Our cooks are appreciating their meals, also, as well as the fact that we are able to consistently provide three meals a day without interruption. *Please pray that our cooks will continue to seek God’s help with math skills to correctly measure quantities of food for recipes.*



MABEL COOKING LUNCH



JOANNE SETTING UP THE PANTRY

### **Our Small Team is Doing Fine**

Who would have imagined that three ROS could open and run a Village? Obviously God did! Of course, we are not doing it alone. We have six Rafiki Mothers who have been busy while waiting for children. In the beginning, before we had cooks, they cooked (and taught me how to cook "Liberian style"). Now they are helping us to catalog hundreds of donated books in our nursery school library in preparation for school when we do have children. Our two cooks and cleaning staff are quite proficient after only one month on the job. The security staff is learning the ropes, as well as our grounds keepers. With all this help, our little team isn't so little. *Please pray for us to have wisdom as we continue to train the staff in their respective jobs.*

### **Little Improvements Make a Big Difference**



JOHN WORKING ON SOLAR PANELS

The finish work continues on our buildings and we are appreciating the little touches that make life a bit easier. Our contractor has put up some screens on our windows so we are no longer invaded by every variety of flying and crawling insect in our beach environment. In addition, our Village director, Ed, and John, a MiniMissionary, were able to install solar panels for hot water in four buildings during John's time in Liberia. If you have lived without hot

water for an extended time, you may appreciate the delight in having it come directly out of the tap, versus hot water from the stove at bath time. *Please pray that Ed is able to install the solar panels in the children's cottages with help from someone here.*

### **Small E-mails are a Tremendous Blessing**

I often consider the lives of missionaries before the "technological" age and wonder what it was like for them to only receive news by letters carried on ships. Surely, those letters were read and reread to tap every bit of encouragement and news from across the waters. I am beginning to come to a new appreciation for even the shortest e-mail from friends, family, and supporters. While we are so busy at the Village, there isn't a lot of time to spend at an Internet café sending and receiving e-mail. Actually, with the days passing so quickly in doing the little things that keep the Village running, writing e-mail to send later is usually one of those things that get pushed off, in lieu of falling into bed to get much needed rest. So forgive us if we haven't been timely in our communications. Do continue to send those little encouraging messages that we value so much! Will you also pray that we are able to install the satellite dish for Internet reception at the Village?

### **Your Little Prayers and Gifts Mean so Much**

Thank you for supporting the work of God through Rafiki in Liberia. Every prayer prayed is appreciated; every gift given toward the work furthers the ministry. If you would like to know how to contribute or pray for our Village, please go to [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org). We would love to have you come for a little while as a MiniMissionary. I promise that you are not required to climb up on the roof to install solar panels as John did for us. There are so many other ways to help.

Thank you for standing with us to help the little ones of Africa.

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LIBERIA

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NOTE: Please visit [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org) to find information on your ROS, what Rafiki is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.