



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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February 2007

Dear Friends and Family of Dianne and Lee:

"Oh, my head! Oh, my waist and heart pains! Oh, my burning eyes!" Speaking from a Village doctor's perspective, while in the U.S.A. for vacation it is good to be missed back home in Nigeria. Connecting with growing grandchildren and other family after an absence of eighteen months was really fun for these grandparents of seven. We also were very pleasantly surprised to learn that our son, Phil and Amy, are expecting their first baby in July! Renewing friendships with fellow church-members, friends, and some supporters in Florida, Georgia, and Washington state was truly God's gift to us. Our time went by very quickly but we were eager to return to our home in Jos. Our hearts were bursting with joy with the thrilling "welcome back" expressed. "You are welcome! How was the journey? How was the family? Happy New Year! Thank God!" God's love expressed to us on both sides of the ocean gives us satisfaction, refreshment, and joy. Sincere thanks to those who hugged us, loaned us cars, listened to our stories, and sent us packages, letters, and cards on both continents!

It was due to the prayers of many that we were able to seamlessly travel a day each way on three airplanes without swollen legs or body pains and bring back seven checked bags of supplies for the clinic, the children, and us. Most things are available in Nigeria; however, it is nice to be able to bring back for this two-year term some "extras" including items that are locally costly or unavailable. Thank you.

At several Rafiki meetings a number of doctors, nurses, dentists, and others were able to visualize some of the peoples' needs in Jos and the roles of MiniMissionaries. We trust that some of you will be called to come see and serve orphans and the medically needy here. A MiniMissionary lab technologist and physician's assistant are committed to staffing the Community Medical Clinic, April 2-12, in Jos. The medical clinic scheduled for February was cancelled for lack of available medical MiniMissionaries. We trust others will understand the Rafiki philosophy of missions by applying for a training weekend at the Home Office in San Antonio, Texas, answering the need, and then coming to serve God for the "least of these." We are asking God to provide staff needed for community medical clinics, June 18-28 and

November 12-22, plus a dental clinic between. We know each one who has served in this way was a great blessing to us and God blessed the people here *down to their bare feet!* That is why many of you return again and again.

A family Christmas gathering was awesome; however, to receive notification of fourteen pages of financial donors for the month of December capped our joy and expectations. We can only affirm and recognize God's call on our lives. We are so grateful for the opportunity of a lifetime to serve across the ocean and hopefully make a difference, one individual at a time, in His timing. Thank you one and all! And to those of you who pray for us and correspond with us, you, too, are making a huge difference in the way we live, think, and behave with one another in this Rafiki Village. We wish to express special thanks to Rafiki Prayer Groups (RPGs) in various locations who pray for the big picture of the Rafiki Foundation. If you would like to be better connected by joining an RPG or investigate starting one, you should contact Home Office through [rpg@rafiki-foundation.org](mailto:rpg@rafiki-foundation.org). We also send monthly prayers and praises by e-mail through the Home Office, which you could request through this same address. Sorry, we are unable to send these by regular mail from Nigeria.

We are blessed by having ten supportive churches and hundreds of individuals on our team but it is impossible to individually express our appreciation to all and share God's blessings in this work. To help us, Rafiki has provided a four-week furlough once in two years. It is our desire to especially share the joys of doctoring and teaching in a Rafiki Village. To make that happen we need for you to invite us to come. We will be in Florida and Ohio and wherever we can schedule from mid-July to mid-August. We are based in Orlando (Orange City) and hope to concentrate on the Ohio region the last week of July and into the Northeast/East. Possibly we can travel to other areas, too. Would you begin to pray and help us schedule those four weeks in July and August? As soon as possible would you tell us of your availability to meet us personally?

"Good morning, Auntie. Good afternoon, Auntie. Good evening, Auntie." Dianne is now learning to develop relationships directly with the ninety-four

young children, who live in the Rafiki Village, their mothers, substitute mothers, and supporting assistants, plus kitchen and laundry staff. The assignment is quite different than teaching teenagers who trek to the Village daily for school and skill training. Think of the opportunities for memory expansion in just learning the names and faces of some 130 people, all with deep brown eyes, black skin and hair, and beautiful smiles. Helping to keep the growing, active little ones in clothes, shoes, socks, etc., will keep her from idleness. *Would you pray, right now if you have a moment, for physical endurance and mental efficiency?* Thank God for providing good walking shoes and new sidewalks in the Village. The beginning of a new month gave her opportunities for practicing her computer skills for schedules. Thank God for the experience of teaching the Excel computer program in business machines class with the teens. Dianne is the assistant to the director of the ChildCare Program, who is on an anticipated brief medical leave. *Pray that it is indeed brief.*

To begin the new year, our Rafiki Village director focused on 1 Peter 5:1-5 at our monthly staff

meeting. You might review those verses and pray that Dianne be a shepherd of this flock of little ones, serving because she is willing, as God wants her to be, eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to her, but being an example to the flock, and clothed with humility. We were each personally challenged by this principle: my willingness to serve sets in motion my effectiveness as a shepherd.

Love the thought of seeing you this summer,



Lee and Dianne Johnson

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P.S. From the Home Office: the Johnsons are at 43% for their current term—January 2007 through December 2008.