



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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February 2009

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth"

(Psalm 121:1-2 NIV).

Greetings from Nigeria to our family and friends,

"Doctor, would you please help me? I have a broom stuck in my eye."

While eating dinner last week we received this call from one of our mothers. What a picture! Actually a Nigerian broom is a little different than we Americans are accustomed. Much Nigerian work is done bent from the waist. Consider a farmer with a short handled hoe, or a mother sweeping a corner with a dried-weed bundle. Sometimes the individual pieces of the broom are not all pointed downward, and sure enough a Mother had a cornea injury from the bristle; which fortunately it healed without consequence.

"Auntie, would you please help me with some black thread to mend my child's trousers?"

Many of the Rafiki Mothers are eager and able to help with keeping the children's clothing intact. Some children also mend their own clothes.



EAGER DAY STUDENT: JONAH

"Doctor, would you help me with physical exams for fifteen day students coming for admission next week?"

January is the beginning of the Rafiki school year. The school year ended just before Christmas. At the beginning of last summer break a few qualified children from surrounding villages were added to our school, and now there are twenty-eight plus the seven junior high students. Each day they trek up to ninety minutes and have breakfast before classes. One such eager student is Jonah. He rarely is early due to his long trek, but hungrily consumes breakfast, as well as his lunch meal!

"Auntie Dianne, would you measure these potential day students and on Monday morning give them uniforms to wear?"

She soon realized these students range from Primary One to Primary Six. Some are quite small while others are teenagers! When and how are we going to outfit these children with uniforms? The ninety-eight Rafiki students (ever growing, of course) have just been clothed. Since the end of school in December until January 12 all uniforms were washed, inspected, and mended, plus some exchanged for larger sizes. This included four pieces per child plus two more for each Primary Five and Primary Six student totaling some 417 pieces. Our goal was for the Primary Four students to have new uniforms in January, but the day students have taken precedence over updating the eighteen Rafiki Primary Four students, as they advance to the uniform style of the upper primary.

We are in process of changing from shorts to long trousers for the boys and dresses to jumpers and blouses for the girls. Also, the fabrics had to be changed. You heard the saga about new Christmas clothing for each child, well now we are transitioning to new uniforms!

"Doctor, would you evaluate five potential mother candidates today?"

Yes, and we are very glad to have many new candidates to strengthen our care team! These women are a major answer to your prayers.

Daily we are thankful for our work with Rafiki. There is no other place we would rather be. However, there are moments when we feel the tyranny of the urgent and have to check priorities with the One who continually provides direction. Thank you for praying for the children, their caregivers, and us.

Recent news has brought us great joy because God has heard the prayers of many needy people outside of our Rafiki village. Because MiniMissionary doctors had not been available, we had not held a medical clinic for a long time. One is now scheduled for April 6-17. Two doctors plan to come, as well as two ladies from Great Britain, who will return to lead registration and triage. It would be a great thing to pray for a laboratory technician to come as well.

We will attend Rafiki Enrichment week near Orlando in June 2009. Vacation and furlough will follow in July and August. Also, we are excited because grandbaby #9 is expected in June 2009. Daughter Leanne is pregnant, and they say it's a girl.

The tentative agenda for visiting family and many Rafiki friends and churches is:

June 27–July 25 Orange City, Florida

July 25–August 8 Akron and Marion, Ohio vicinity

August 15–20 Los Angeles, California vicinity

August 20–27 Kelso, Washington and Portland, Oregon vicinity

September 3–4 return to Nigeria

Dear family and friends, would you help us in July and August? First, we need definite dates and places to share about the work being done in Rafiki Village, Nigeria. Secondly hosts and hostesses willing to introduce Rafiki to others are needed. And thirdly, very much needed are committed Christians willing to pray for and support us in the 2009-2010 term. If you are able to help in any of the above ways we would appreciate a timely response to: johnsonrafiki@netzero.net

Love and thankfulness,



Lee and Dianne Johnson

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