



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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May 2003

Dear Friends and Family of Lee and Dianne,

Karibu (Welcome!) Dar es Salaam *Rafiki* Girls' Center (RGC)!!! Yes, Dar is in Tanzania on the eastern coast of Africa just below the equator, and we arrived at the end of March, just as the hot summer was ending. The exit of a *Rafiki* Oversees Staff (ROS) family from Dar es Salaam (due to a stateside death in their immediate family) precipitated our move here. Our transfer is consistent with *Rafiki's* goal to focus on the needs of orphans and young women in Africa.

Twelve smiling teenage girls greet us with **Karibu** and beautiful, enthusiastic singing as the RGC morning starts at 8 o'clock with devotions focused on one of the attributes of God. Then, from 8:30 to 11:20, there are three classes on two levels simultaneously. **Pray that we will be effective, especially as Lee teaches art (yes, art!!) and Dianne level three English. Other staff teach second level English, computer, and music.**

At 1 o'clock the girls begin production of beautiful *batik* pillow covers, table runners, tablecloths, or *serviettes* (cloth napkins) sold through the *Rafiki* Exchange in San Antonio, Texas. (You can see products on the website at www.rafiki-foundation.org.)

We are learning the art of *batik* design with waxing and dyeing the cotton fabric, along with helping supervise cooking, cleaning, upkeep of the center, and sewing before 4 o'clock when the girls leave the center. The center is located about four kilometers from our home. So far there has been no time for Lee to investigate doing volunteer work

in the medical community, though there are mission clinics available here.

Karibu to our house. It is one of three townhouses connected in a park-like compound. The rest of the ROS in Dar live in the other two dwellings. Thus we have immediate assistance from the *Rafiki* Representative, Jim Fredericks, his wife Diane, Maureen Lawliss, and Deb Nederhoed (who served five months in Bangalore with us while waiting for her Tanzanian work permit). Jim teaches at the university and his wife is occupied full-time as a mission school teacher, so **pray that another couple assigned to Dar will receive work permits, arrive, and be settled before another class of six girls is added at the RGC in October.**

During our first two weeks of settling in there were two women here as *Rafiki* Mini Missionaries from America. They taught art and English and helped greatly in the center while we were adapting to new surroundings and acclimatizing to the heat and humidity! Dar es Salaam is a coastal city but Bangalore was inland and at a higher elevation. (However, we have fallen in love with the opportunities to frequently see the Indian Ocean in route to shopping and church!) We have room for you here, and there are many opportunities elsewhere to help build and maintain *Rafiki* centers. If you might be interested in MiniMissions, do contact the *Rafiki* Home Office.

Karibu is a good word to know. You respond to it with "**asante**" (thank you). It is a good idea to pick up even more Swahili, the national language, to use on the street.

And, of course, you know one Swahili word already! "**Rafiki**" means friend! Many of the two-plus million people around Dar speak little or no English. Fortunately for us, English is the second language because this country was under the control of the British from WWI until the early 1960s.

The population is not so dense here so the air and noise pollution is low. The roads are not overburdened with vehicles and animals. There have been privately operated vans and small buses readily available since the early 1980s. They are called *dala-dalas* because when they began the operators would call out "*dala-dala*", which charged the approximate fare of one US dollar (USD) per ride, or five Tanzanian schillings.

Now, due to inflation, the Tanzanian schilling is worth slightly less than one-thousandth of a USD. That makes it easy to roughly calculate the cost in dollars, just divide those huge scary prices by 1000. The largest denomination bill in general usage is 10,000. Thus it makes a big wad in one's pocket when you go to buy something worth hundreds of dollars. Most transactions are done in cash, as credit card facilities are restricted to ATMs and a few upscale hotels. It is almost impossible to overcharge one's plastic here! However, most manufactured goods are imported, which with duty plus value added tax (VAT) makes the cost of living about double what we have been accustomed to in Bangalore.

Other great things we have noticed about Dar es Salaam:

- About half the population is "Christian," and missionaries are given work permits. We have two-year work permits and will not have to leave every six months.

- The RGC is established and functioning well and includes some Muslim girls.
- Already we have our own postal box and e-mail address.
- Several of your friends and relatives in Dar have helpfully welcomed us.
- We are content with attending a mixed-nationality church with services in English.
- BSF classes are well established and we are beginning administrative leadership roles.
- You have continued with us as wonderfully supportive friends and praying partners.

We are so grateful that you allow us to be your representatives in Tanzania. It is wonderful to hear from you and your prayers are especially vital at this time of transition.

Joyfully in Africa,



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NOTE: The *Rafiki* web site has been revised. Please visit at www.rafiki-foundation.org and find information on your ROS what *Rafiki* is doing the centers and the Exchange