



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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October 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters,

## **Joy Is . . .**

Joy is being greeted by leaping, smiling, happy children. Among these children is a healthy, growing baby boy named Isaac whose weight almost doubled in three months. Great joy is also in remembering so many furlough events involving supporters, friends, and family.

## **Remembering Mother**

Since our last newsletter in early June, our family gathered in California to commemorate Mother's completing her earthly journey and to anticipate celebrating with her in heaven. You may recall that much of her life's focus was on children—having six of her own, then enjoying many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also sponsored four children in the Philippines for more than thirty years, taught elementary school for twenty-seven years, and hosted youth from other nations.

Mother broke her leg on her first attempt to come to the Rafiki Girls' Center in India, so she had to try a second time. In April 2006, Mary Edith, at age 86, came to work with the children at the Rafiki Village Nigeria as a MiniMissionary. She subsequently had a knee replaced so she could get around better, and to fulfill her dream of returning to the children "before they forget who the lady with the 'yellow' hair is."

Actually, serving the Rafiki children in many helpful ways increased her heart for them. When she could not go to them, she sent gifts of supplies and games. Mother spoke to groups about Rafiki and increased her financial commitment which continues even past her death.

When someone receives little children in the name of Christ, great is their reward of being received by God Himself (Mark 9:37). We miss her phone calls, frequent letters that included news clippings and news of our extended family, but most of all we miss her caring ways. She made her life count for many of God's children.

## **Meeting Friends While on Furlough**

Another outstanding thing about our furlough was meeting with groups of praying friends, whether the venue was at churches, homes, country clubs, picnics, parades, or Rafiki Prayer Groups in California, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio,

Virginia, and Paris, France. May God richly bless you because of your love which was demonstrated through your personal interest, hosting meetings, asking searching questions, providing delicious food, comfortable beds, transportation, and in giving the money needed for us to continue serving in Nigeria. Sorry we were not able to see all of you, but Lord willing, we will hopefully be able to do so in the summer of 2009.

## **Introducing Our Newest Grandson**

In between the busyness of furlough, Dianne's knee surgery, and shopping, we rejoice for the quality time squeezed in with our eight grandchildren! Our newest grandchild is Jack Hayes William Johnson who made his grand entrance on July 19. Being the largest baby born at the British Hospital in Paris, he is a very cute and robust sweetheart with auburn color hair (great-great Grandmother Johnson had red hair)! Congratulations Phil and Amy, and proud brothers Arthur and Hugo!

## **God's Provision of Sponsors**

One of the Rafiki Mothers repeated a principle that we learned in our Rafiki Bible Study. Her paraphrase stated, "Instead of grumbling about matters the way the Israelites did, we can have expectant hope in seeing how God will provide."

We have already seen that principle come true. Some of our Rafiki orphans here in Nigeria and elsewhere, who did not have *sponsors* a few weeks ago, now have sponsors thanks to you as individuals or prayer groups. Information is available on the Rafiki website or by e-mail at: [orphans@rafiki-foundation.org](mailto:orphans@rafiki-foundation.org).

## **God is Answering Our Questions**

The first case of *mumps* has thus far spread to twenty-one other children despite attempts at isolation. Fortunately it has not caused serious illness or spread to adults where mumps can often be more severe.

Question: *Will key children be available to march in the school competition celebrating Nigeria's forty-seventh year of independence on October 1, 2007?*

Answer: Just as more Rafiki children were falling ill with mumps, Plateau State cancelled all marching competitions.

Question: *How shall all the growing children who need replacement clothing be accommodated?*

Answer: Children from several of the cottages have been outfitted, and donations of cloth for sewing more clothes are being prepared for the others.

Question: *Will our last piece of luggage containing a printer for making photos for the children's life-books, personal medicines, children's clothing, etc., ever get here?*

Answer: A call from the airlines last week informed us that our bin was in Lagos, Nigeria, and was being sent back to Europe so it can be shipped to Abuja. We classify this as a "small miracle" because this bin has been handled by at least three different airlines in six weeks, and has gone to several cities not on our itinerary. In the ten years we have been with Rafiki, our bags have sometimes been delayed but have always been delivered to us. Thank you for your prayers.

### **Our God is Faithful**

When will we begin trusting God like the Mothers do? Should we lose hope that God may not provide sponsors for the new children Rafiki is soon to take? Or worry about the continuing spread of illness (in Lee's weakness, he awakened this week thinking he missed a malaria diagnosis, presuming it was the mumps)? Thirty-three percent of the children who get the mumps do not develop salivary gland swelling, so they can continue to attend school, eat in the dining hall, and otherwise mix freely with those not infected. We are indeed a close community.

In a country where resources are not readily available for all needs, it is good to see how God

provides for basic vaccines and other services. The children are developing immunity to mumps the old fashioned way.

### **One More Question**

*Will we have sufficient MiniMissionaries to staff the Community Medical Clinics being scheduled for 2008?*

Answer: God is providing three of his "retired servants" to run the clinic this November—a pediatrician, a teacher, and a midwife. Maybe we will get to see some of you here in either January, March, July, or October 2008 for these Community Medical Clinics . . . *before we see you back in the U.S.A.* God provides opportunities to stretch our faith and see more of His sovereignty, don't you agree?

Joyful and thankful for your partnership,



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P.S. From the Home Office: Dianne and Lee are at 67% of the total needed for their current 2007-2008 term.