



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Dear friends and family of Dianne and Lee, greetings!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1 ESV). Our Rafiki school curriculum purposely integrates the biblical worldview as the strong foundation for all subjects. Does your worldview begin with God as Creator?

Each school morning at eight o'clock our attention is drawn to the Nigerian flag. Before beginning the school day the Pledge of Allegiance is recited and the national anthem sung by the children, teachers, and mothers.

"I pledge to Nigeria my country to be faithful, loyal, and honest. To serve Nigeria with all my strength, to defend her unity, and uphold her honor and glory. So help me God."

The second stanza of Nigeria's National Anthem is
Oh, God of creation,
Direct our noble cause.
Guide our leaders right,
Help our youth the truth to know,
In love and honesty to grow.
And living just and true
Great lofty heights attain
To build a nation where
Peace and justice shall reign."

Most Nigerians are patriotic and religious in believing God is important not only as Creator, but as their Provider. Can we as Americans still say and mean: "In God We Trust"?

Nigerians are gracious and fun-loving people. Many have committed to help train our children and build a very interesting and diverse Village with their skills and talents.

Our Rafiki Village has a national staff of some fifty employees—teachers, mothers, assistant and substitute mothers, cooks, laundry workers, gardeners, guards, cleaner, a repairman, director's assistant, skill trainer, driver, and a buyer. But the hired staff is only the beginning!

Recently some fifty people from a nearby church donated several days of hard labor, clearing land below our schools for a protective border to our property and for more garden space. Also a

church men's group and a youth group have helped with landscaping.

Volunteers come regularly to care for the babies on Sunday mornings, help in community medical clinics, direct sports and music, and cut the children's hair. Others bring gifts of food, money, supplies, and clothing on their own initiative. A local dentist provides free dental care.

Churches, businessmen, and even the governor's wife have special parties for our children. Recently initiated is the Rafiki Aunty/Uncle Program where a Christian family visits a particular Rafiki child at the Village and later includes the child in its family's activities.



FIDELIS (RED SHIRT) WITH HIS RAFIKI AUNTY AND HER TWO CHILDREN

Around the world, many are partnering with Rafiki to assist orphans to become godly and educated citizens. Some twenty Minimissionaries volunteered in Jos this summer to offer their time, talents, and energies (fill in the gaps and add expertise) while many of the ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) were on furlough. One MiniMissionary, Jared Jessup, who came two summers ago, is coming to Jos soon for almost a year.

Growing healthy youngsters is in itself a great reward for the nine fulltime Jos ROS. Our small efforts working along side committed and helpful Nigerians seems far more rewarding and exciting than an early retirement to fast lane America.

What can compare to joyful children playing ball, reciting in the classroom, learning to play the piano, or to sing three-part-harmony, excited about what they learned on a field trip to the post office and the bank, showing friendship and respect for others, smiling over their new clothes or a birthday cake to share with their family, adopting a Christian world view and applying the Bible lessons to life, sharing their homework with us, and expressing thanks for what you provide?

Ten-year-old Israel is one of three primary students promoted a grade in mid-year. He is a sensitive boy, an eager learner, and now the smallest boy in the fourth grade. He also won three medals in the Rafiki Olympic Summer GAMES and will long be remembered for his performance in directing a choir of peers at the presentation for the State Governor and Home Office visitors. It is a joy to work with happy, responsive children.



ISRAEL'S FLASHING EYES AND BRIGHT SMILE

Your prayers are effective, as we see in many ways; one way is the Governor providing two wells and three new water towers that will roughly triple our water supply. This is no small thing in the function of the Village and is especially needed in the six-month dry season beginning a month from now.

On the medical side the children are thriving and there has been little malaria this wet season. One eight-year-old needs eyeglasses—Lee can certainly identify with Ethan, having been nearsighted at a young age. It is interesting that nearsightedness is quite uncommon here, evidenced by the lack of need for glasses in the other ninety-seven children, so far.

A result of some of Dianne's work is evidenced by the primary grades four and five. The boys are wearing blue long pants with blue/white-checked shirts and the girls are in jumpers over blue/white-checked blouses. These new uniforms distinguish the older students not only by their size from the younger ones, but also by their "grown-up dress."

It is time to let you know we are glad to extend our ROS commitment two more years, through 2010. We seek your continued prayers and support and trust God for our health and resources as well as God's blessings for our families back home and in France. 1997 seems a distant past when God called us to a two-year commitment, and provided you as partners to make it possible. We are amazed to see the progress in the Rafiki vision so far, and want you to know how appreciated your partnering is, and so important to secure long-term benefits.

How else can you help in God's plans for Rafiki? If you feel the call to sponsor an orphan, serve as a missionary, or financially give for completion of the Rafiki Home Office, write to the letterhead address or get details from www.rafiki-foundation.org. Our new prayer card with updated picture and new Rafiki address is available from Rafiki, so ask if you have not already gotten one.

Love and heartfelt thankfulness,

Lee & Dianne

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