



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14 NIV).

Merry Christmas!



ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

As we ended the week at school, Vicky told the pre-kindergarten class that next Monday would be a new month. Did anyone know the name of the month? Grace burst out with an enthusiastic, “It’s Christmas!” Out of the twelve students, only four of them knew anything about Christmas, but the four kicked into high gear. Grace started filling them in, “It’s Jesus’ birthday. We eat cake!”

Lemmy added, “There are shepherds and sheep.”

Purity piped in, “And angels!”

Luka was next, “And cows, but not the scary kind that chase us! And Jesus was born in a . . . in a . . . Teacher, what was that box where the animals ate?” Pretty good memories considering they were not even four years old last Christmas!

School at the Rafiki Village Zambia is going to take on a new face in January. Two new classes will be starting—first grade and junior secondary school. Vicky gets the privilege of teaching eleven of our children who will be moving up to the first grade plus four orphaned students living with guardians from the nearby villages. For the JSS (Junior Secondary School), all of the students will be from the surrounding villages and have lost at least one parent. In our area, there is a 40% dropout rate

after the seventh grade. Put yourself in Headmistress Rose’s shoes. How do you choose only eighteen children out of the hundreds that surround our Village? Where do you put five classes of children if the school building isn’t ready? We pray for her to have the wisdom of Solomon.



NEW SCHOOL

The rainy season has arrived and everything that was dead and dust-colored is now verdant and lush. Mike has been extremely busy trying to keep ahead of the fast-growing grass, but his priorities change when he hears the four most-dreaded words a plant manager can hear, “What is that smell?” Redesigning sewer systems keeps him agile! He is also pinch-hitting for David and Nancy who are on sabbatical, so he is doing the bookkeeping and payroll and procuring amazing volumes of food. This week we bought forty gallons of milk, 300 eggs, fifty loaves of bread, 150 buns, ninety pounds of potatoes, fifty oranges, 100 bananas, and on and on. Mike’s next big adventure will be helping to plant twenty-two pounds of beans, and other massive quantities of vegetables in the new one acre plus Rafiki garden.

Think about this next Saturday morning when you make breakfast. Imagine following a recipe for pancakes that takes twenty-six cups of flour! Imagine pouring, flipping and serving 150 pancakes, trying to keep them warm and fresh for the thirty-eight children who define Saturday as “pancake day.” Imagine making bread pudding for Sunday supper that takes sixty-five eggs?



LOTS OF DATES

What do you do with a gift from Saudi Arabia of 550 pounds of dates? These are some of the mental challenges that Linda Petty has faced and conquered in amazing ways. She makes sure our children are fed three delicious and nutritious meals plus two snacks every day! We all thank God for Linda and pray that God will give her easy transition to life in America when she retires January 12.



PITTING THE DATES



"JUDGE RICHARD"

At the Village, we are currently studying the book of Deuteronomy and have seen such growth in the ROS, staff, and children. This past week, we were talking about choosing just judges, so Vicky asked Grace to pretend that she had a ball and they played catch. As they played, Vicky kept the ball, so the case of the stolen ball went before Judge Richard. Vicky said, "Here, Judge Richard, is a toy car for you to play with. Isn't that a great car? Now, Judge, whose ball is this?" Without a moment's hesitation, he smiled and said, "It is Grace's. Give it back!" So we have no corruption in the Rafiki Village court!



CHECKING OUT A CHAMELEON

As you can see, we have been truly blessed to watch God at work in the hearts and minds of the Rafiki children. Once again, what an awesome privilege it is to be serving with you. Your prayers and support have made it possible for us to be here doing what God has called us to do. Thank you! May your Christmas be filled with God's presence and wrapped in His love.



AT THE MANGER

In Christ's Love,

Mike and Vicky

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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information about your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.