



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed. . ." (2 Corinthians 4:7-8).

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt rooted for a lifetime, so focused on the task God has given you that you knew you'd be there for years to come? Malawi was such a home for us. When people asked how long we were staying, we'd say, "Well, there are ninety-seven more years remaining on the lease, so that's how many years we have left." The Lord knew it would take unusual circumstances to uproot us, and the way He got our attention was through Mike's health. After three bouts of malaria in seven weeks, a twenty-pound weight loss and exhaustion, we went back to the States for two months of rest and restoration. We spent that time with our very pregnant daughter Andrea and her husband Aaron. Andrea was due January 11th, but was displaying symptoms of toxemia the week before we arrived. We were thankful to be there with them when they faced a critical situation Christmas day and Andrea was **"struck down, but not destroyed"** (2 Corinthians 4:9)." After two days of flu-like symptoms, her blood pressure skyrocketed to 183/123, her platelet count plummeted, and she was diagnosed with something called HELLP syndrome. The doctors rushed her in for eight units of packed platelets and an emergency C-section.

We thank God for getting her and our new grandson, Devin Michael Pierce, safely through the ordeal.



"Perplexed, but not in despair"

(2 Corinthians 4:8). In January we were asked to transfer to Lusaka, Zambia, to join our very good friends, Nancy and David Writebol. Their teammates Donna and Ed Bland had been reassigned to Liberia to begin construction of the Rafiki Village. After much soul-searching and a heart-wrenching goodbye to our close team, friends, and precious girls at the RGC, we flew to Lusaka. However, after being in Zambia five weeks, it's now very clear to us why God moved us here. His work is going on all over Africa, not just Malawi. David and Nancy were trying to keep the girls' center operating, manage the Village construction, and do all other items by themselves and they needed help.



At just the right time, God sent us to be their helpers. Vicky has now stepped in at the girls' center and is joyfully teaching again.

On the Village construction side, work had reached the point where continuous supervision was necessary, and it was also time to design the water and electrical systems.



Mike's experience from Malawi allows him to be a great help to David in ensuring the construction goes as planned and all works are done correctly and on time.

The new Village is an hour's drive out of town which is much too far for the girls to walk, so we had all been praying for God to keep the current girls' center going as a satellite project. Also, the girls at the center knew from the beginning that a change would come, but were anxious about their future and struggling with fears and doubts. Recently, we received the wonderful news that the Reformed Church of Zambia is willing to take on the operation of the Matero Girls' Center. We will begin training the new staff in April. Then, after the center is transitioned over we will be free to begin concentrating on outfitting the new Rafiki Girls' Center (RGC) and Rafiki Children's Center (RCC) at the Village and preparing for Village dedication day on July 20th.

God has clearly shown us that as difficult as the transition was, **"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God"** (2 Corinthians 4:15). He has given us the privilege of being a part of another Rafiki Village rising from the earth for His honor and glory. Faithful prayer warriors and supporters, please keep Malawi in your prayers, but we're also asking you to transplant your hearts to Zambia, where there are over a million orphans looking to God's people for help.

Please continue to pray for:

- God's comfort and continued learning for the girls as the center is turned over to the Reformed Church of Zambia (RCZ).
- Safety and speedy construction of the Rafiki Village in Zambia.
- Health and safety for all ROS on the field.
- More Rafiki Overseas Staff (ROS) to join us on the field.

We plan on traveling back to the States this summer and would like to see you. Our current schedule has us in:

Bermuda: June 2-7

New Jersey: June 8-12

Washington State: June 13-July 2

Indianapolis: July 7-9

Please let us know if you would like us to share with you and/or your church when we are in your area.

January 2007 will be the beginning of our third term on the field. We would not be able to be here if it weren't for all of you who make it possible. Our prayer is that God will continue to guide and direct each and everyone of you and bless you for the part you are playing in the furthering of His kingdom. We look forward to seeing you soon.

In Christ's Love,

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