



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4040 • 210-244-2600 • www.rafiki-foundation.org

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*"Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame" (Psalm 34:3-5).*

It always amazes us! We come to a mountain that looks impossible to pass, and our humanity begins to get in the way. However, then God begins to move. He puts His hand on our back, clears the path before us and before we know it, He has us over that mountain! Well, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, we crossed a very large mountain. Let's step back, though, and see just what God did.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we finally pushed the workers out of the new Rafiki Girls' Center and began cleaning the construction debris out of the way. We had electricity as of 4:30 P.M. the previous afternoon, but the water from the well was dirty and our center was not yet connected to the tank. How do you host a dedication for 250 people with no water? The girls worked very hard, and by 4:00 P.M., our new center was clean and looked beautiful with curtains in every window. At 4:30 P.M., twenty-one guests from America and Bermuda flew into the Mzuzu Airport, all of whom were eager to see the new village. The only luggage that was lost contained Don McEachern's clothes and the dedication plaque. After an arroy prayer, we decided to use Bob's (our wood-carving instructor) plaque that had the Rafiki logo with "To God be the Glory" engraved on the bottom.

After a dry, sunny month, dedication day dawned cool, foggy, and raining. Would the tent keep the rain out? Would everything work? Did we need to move everything to the not yet completed dining hall? Would the girls lose their courage and forget their testimonies when facing so many people? We gathered together for one final rehearsal . . . all except Sara, our shyest student who happened to be outside pacing back and forth, trying to gather up enough courage to join us. After practice and much prayer, Sara slipped inside the building with her lower lip trembling in a timid smile. It was time to share with our invited guests all that God had done in the past 2½ years. Upon each beautiful face shined the joy of Christ and resolve to do their best. As always, God was faithful, and the rain stopped an hour before starting time.

As the crowd gathered beneath the tent, the St. Andrews church choir sang hymns in *Chewa* and *Tumbuka*.



RAFIKI VILLAGE MALAWI SPECIAL GUESTS PLATFORM

Mike began the program, introducing Mayor Chibambo who told the story of how God had prompted him to invite Rafiki to Mzuzu, closing with the announcement that this would be his last official act as mayor. The city assembly was being dissolved by the government at noon that day. God's timing is always perfect! We then celebrated God's faithfulness when Rosemary spoke of His call to build this Village. After initial contacts, Mayor Chibambo had invited her to meet the 9,000 orphans in Mzuzu three years ago, and this day was the result of his invitation. Next, the Government Minister of Gender and Child Welfare, Joyce Banda, passionately spoke about the plight of the girl child.



JOYCE BANDA

Then, our students rose as one and sang *Great and Mighty is the Lord our God*. With God-given confidence, each one boldly stepped up to the microphone and declared God's attributes. Ether: "God is our Creator. Each building is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. I thank God for creating me, and I know He will create a future for me."



RAFIKI GIRLS' CENTER STUDENTS

Nolit boomed out, "God is omnipotent. He is all powerful. I was stepped on and just sitting at home when God called me to Rafiki. I am His child and nothing is too hard for Him!" Tamala spoke up, "God is our Provider. I lacked school fees and had no hope, but God provided Rafiki and now I have a future." All sixteen shared their testimonies and ended by singing *Day by Day and With Each Passing Moment*. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience. We knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that each word spoken and sung came from the depth of their hearts and that we were standing on holy ground.

Then the plaque was unveiled and we all knew there was a reason that the bronze plaque hadn't arrived.



. . . GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE.

The heartbeat of the day was "To God be the Glory," and we rose together and sang the song that echoed the words on Bob's plaque. We all knew that God was pleased and present with us, and our hearts were filled with joy and celebration. Lunch at the RGC was filled with warmth, love, and the assurance that soon our village will be filled with the laughter of God's little ones.

Now that dedication day is behind us, we are looking forward to completion of the buildings and receiving our first precious children. Pauline and Barb have been visiting villages with the Social Welfare department to see firsthand the need and meet some of the children who may

someday live at Rafiki Village Mzuzu. The need is enormous and the number of orphans is growing daily.



TWO OUT OF THREE . . .

These two are part of a set of triplets waiting for a new home. Their mother has already passed away and their father has abandoned them. They are seven months old, and one only weighs four pounds. Please pray with us that we will be able to take in children very soon.

As we look back over the last year, we want to take the time to thank you, our friends, supporters, and prayer warriors. You have made our work here possible.



MALAWI TEAM

What a privilege to serve with you. Perhaps He is calling you to join us? To God be the glory!

*Mike and Vicky*

Mike and Vicky Koch

P. O. Box 1018  
Mzuzu, Malawi  
CENTRAL AFRICA

E-mail: [mikeandvicky@koch.net](mailto:mikeandvicky@koch.net)  
Phone: 011 265 1 330 935  
Mobile: 011 265 9 956 066