



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son will glorify you" (John 17:1).

Either as a child or a parent, we are certain that you have either said or heard these words, "The time has come." It may have been to let you drive the family car or you may have been told to do something like "Get a job!" Sometimes people make this statement related to difficult medical decisions, to BSF leadership, to *Rafiki* MiniMissions, or to go full-time with *Rafiki* as an ROS! Whatever the reason, the words carry a deep sense of meaning and purpose.

When Jesus spoke these words as recorded in John 17, He was praying to His Father and the reason was for glory: His own and His Father's. As followers of Jesus, we should also be seeking, in all events and changes in our lives, to bring glory to God and the Lord Jesus.

Looking Back

Over the past thirteen years, as a growing family, we have learned that God brings us to "decision time" at many points in our lives. In 1989, it was time for us to give up new teaching careers and go teach in China for two years. During our five years back in Washington State, we had a "close encounter" and introduction to the *Rafiki* Foundation and BSF-TWO. This led to 1997 when the time came to venture out to Madagascar. Both *Rafiki* and BSF have provided wonderful avenues to glorify God. After six years there, the Lord has made it clear to us that the time has come for yet another opportunity to glorify Him in a new place. As with most changes, there is pain mingled with the joy. The pain is that "The time has come" for the Pedersons to leave Madagascar. We will leave behind the place that our girls have come to know as home, two dogs and a guinea pig, and a long list of many of the most friendly and gracious people we have ever met.

Looking to the Future

What does the future hold? We are staying with *Rafiki*! But we find ourselves in the same position as we were six years ago. We know where we are going but we don't know much about the location, yet. *Rafiki* has reassigned us to Jos, Nigeria, and we anticipate going there sometime in August this year. The *Rafiki* Village

there will be completed in June. David will be the headmaster of the orphanage school. He will begin preparing for this as he enters a Master's Degree program at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, during the month of July. Julie will teach at the *Rafiki* Village when she is able. Our daughters will be able to attend Hillcrest School. God has given our girls a wonderful public school experience while in Washington to prepare them for the change from home school.

Pray for good organization and efficient use of our time as David finalizes our time in Madagascar and Julie prepares for Jos.

Current Events in ...Our Family



Amelie, Lauren, Olivia, Anica

On March 17 at 12:56 p.m., *the time came* for Olivia Mariel Morgan Pederson to join our family!! She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is healthy, sweet-tempered, growing quickly, and her sisters dote on her. Attached is a photo of all our girls.

...The Rafiki Girls' Center in Tana

Since Julie and the girls were in the States, David was host to four of the *Rafiki* Home Office staff during their February visit. Julie was grateful that there were no mishaps at home, but they did admit that Madagascar was one of the worst places to drive. However they

didn't confess whether this was because of the potholes or David's driving! When Rosemary Jensen and David met with government people, the officials told them that what the many Malagasy training centers in and around Tana are lacking are skilled trainers. Since *Rafiki* provides a three-year training program with the goal of being a model training center and producing godly contributors into society, we hope that some of the graduates will be the type of trainers this country needs.

The Home Office staff also decided that *the time has come* to move the RGC to a different part of the city. After six months of training, our current class of eight girls had to decide if they would continue even if their transport time would increase up to one hour. They all said yes! April was time to recruit a new class of six girls. We only found five who qualified. However, God brought us a sixth girl at the last minute who had decided *the time had come* for her to commit three years of her life to *Rafiki*.



Standing: first class. Kneeling: new class

One thing that keeps the girls at *Rafiki* is creative teaching. A recent MiniMission volunteer used "Twister" to teach colors.

In God's sovereign knowledge of the need for additional staff, He had *Rafiki* assign new ROS JoAnn Neal to Madagascar a year ago. She is excited to return, having already visited us in 2001 as a MiniMission volunteer. We are praying for her arrival in May so David can help her settle in. **Pray for a new building for the RGC and for JoAnn's timely arrival.**

BSF

After six seasons, *the time has come* for the men's BSF class to have a new teaching leader. What a time to leave—just when the class finally breaks 100 men in attendance and 150 registered, the leadership is maturing, the school program has opened all five levels, October is the East Africa/Madagascar Retreat in Nairobi, and English is fast becoming a popular language to learn. Yes, what a time to leave. There is joy in seeing how lives have been changed. Two comments reflect the change; "The Holy Spirit is in me to change me, so I must stop looking outward and look inward." "While I am at work, God's Word comes to my mind. When I speak His words and the principles learned, my co-workers become very interested in what I say. The Holy Spirit in us is hungry to be made known to unbelievers." The season has been good. **Pray for God to provide a new teaching leader with a passion for the men of Madagascar!**

What Lies Ahead

As we begin planning for a new assignment, we are reminded of how the Lord got us out to Madagascar in 1997. It came down to having many individual supporters from Gig Harbor to Singapore. If you are one of those who has supported us in some way, know that God has used your gift to keep us in ministry the past six years. We are again looking for supporters who have something to give. If you have a desire to pray, then we can add you to our prayer team. If it is time and creativity you have, then we love to get correspondence. If it is financially, "a little goes a long way."

Has the time come for you to do a new thing with *Rafiki*? *Rafiki* believes that *God's Word at Work* brings Him glory. If it is doing that, God is preparing more countries in Africa to invite *Rafiki* to establish villages and RGCs. In order to do this, *Rafiki* needs financial and human resources. Please take time to check out the *Rafiki* web site at www.rafiiki-foundation.org to see the many other opportunities available to help you put God's Word to work.

By His grace we carry on.

*David & Julie
Lauren, Anica, Amelie*

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NOTE: The *Rafiki* web site has been revised. Please visit at www.rafiiki-foundation.org and find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.