



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“ . . . so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all others.
We have different gifts, according to the grace given us . . . ” (Romans 12:5-8).*

One question we asked ourselves soon after arriving here was, “How did they get those three live, full-grown head of cattle into the back of that mini-size truck bed?” Undoubtedly it took more than one person in a cooperative effort to achieve what looked to be impossible. In a comical sort of way, it is an illustration of God’s work anywhere, but for us, specifically here with Rafiki in Nigeria. The work is challenging, sometimes seems impossible, but the Lord gives us many other members of the body of Christ to come alongside to tangibly help, encourage our hearts, and get the job done. By receiving this newsletter, praying for us, and supporting us financially, you are an encouragement to us that you care to hear how the Lord is working to help the physically poor in Africa. This newsletter is devoted to sharing how people here have given of themselves and their resources to aid the orphans and teenage girls at the Rafiki Village. Let us tell you how we have seen Romans 12:5-8 manifest itself at the Rafiki Village in Nigeria.

“Contributing to the needs of others . . .”

Each and every week at our ROS team prayer time, we spend time signing thank you cards to people who have helped Rafiki Nigeria in various ways. One local woman butchered a cow and gave half for the children, just when we were looking for ways to increase protein in their diet. Another gave some chickens. Even a major hotel has donated sheets. On Sundays, various women from the city come out to stay with the littlest children so that the mothers and the older children can go to church.

The Nigerian Rafiki employees met on their own initiative and decided three things: first, they wanted to pray regularly for the village; second, they wanted to hold each other accountable to the employee guidelines; finally, they wanted to establish among themselves an emergency monetary fund so that any among them who might have a need would have somewhere to turn. Our hearts were gladdened that they

valued their workplace and fellow workers so much to take these steps.

“ . . . let him encourage ”

Charity, age four, came to live at the village in early December. She was much like the other orphans except for her cleft lip. It was decided to wait until the school’s Easter break to schedule corrective surgery. When we were given her evening meal to take to the clinic in town we were also handed a pile of get well cards that the other children had made for her. They, too, are learning to be a blessing as they have been blessed.

“ . . . let him serve ”

During the recent Rafiki Home Office visit, Rosemary Jensen met with the Minister of Health further explaining the mission of Rafiki. When he expressed his gratitude, she replied that we were doing this for the children. His response was, “No, you are doing this for all of us.” What a confirmation that Rafiki’s work is not only needed, but wanted.

“ . . . let him teach. ”

Daily, Solomon and Avusu come to Rafiki to work as assistants in the preschool classrooms. They supervise the playground, help kindergartners learn their alphabet and give the teachers helping hands. Their diligence and tenderness have proven to be great assets to the children. Both men see their jobs as a ministry and are grateful for the work, as public positions are few and the pay is undependable.

“ . . . let him give generously. ”

Hillcrest School is where our three eldest daughters spend their days learning. They have also been in on the circle of encouragement. The twins’ fourth-grade class made small care packages and designated the Rafiki children as some of their recipients. Afterwards, their class visited the village and played some games with them.



FUN AND GAMES WITH HILLCREST AND RAFIKI KIDS

Hillcrest students also helped bless and, in return, have been blessed by those outside of Rafiki. Through bake sales and donations, much of the school raised money to buy fifty-six locally made wheelchairs for polio victims. These were presented to the recipients during a chapel service. Some came effectively pulling themselves along the ground with wooden blocks or sandals on their hands. Others were carried in, having been bedridden for some time. One little girl's response was "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Now I won't have to live in the dirt all my life." The man who heads the project is a polio victim himself. An articulate, well-educated man, he will not take a wheelchair himself until all others in Plateau State receive theirs. O, Lord, for such a selfless heart.

Completing the Circle



Here is just a peak inside the gate at Rafiki. If you want to see and hear more about the expanding work and vision of Rafiki in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, that can be arranged! We will be in the States from June 19–July 30. David will continue work on his Master's degree at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, from June 26–July 16. Julie will spend one week at the Rafiki Home Office from July 5–9. We will be in Washington State only for the remaining time and would love to see as many of you there as possible! Sometimes we

look at the names on our "list" and are amazed that after seven years you are still with us, especially those people whom we have never met! Julie will be available to do sharing June 27–July 3 and July 10–16 any time of the day, with small groups or large, and at formal or informal settings. We enjoy sharing about the Lord's work, getting to know you better, and answering questions you might have in person. Please contact us at our e-mail address below to set something up. Ideally, we would like to have a schedule by the end of May, so we can get the word out. Set aside an hour or two, gather some friends and that's it!

Would you join us in giving thanks to the Lord for providing so many generous co-laborers as we serve Him here?

For His sake,

*David & Julie
Lauren, Anica, Amelie*

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