



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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What would you expect to hear at the end of a term one primary school assembly? How about eleven memory verses, a recitation on matter and the body, a chant of pronouns and their uses, Bible facts from A-Z in song, and a mathematical explanation of parts to whole, Nigerian tribal family greetings, a recitation on the digestive system, a drama summarizing the term's learning, and original poetry compositions on Africa? This is what was presented in order from kindergarten to our junior secondary School class. It was great encouragement for all of us to see how God is growing the children in knowledge, confidence, poise, and versatility.

In our last newsletter we rejoiced at having 100 children at the Rafiki Village Nigeria and asked you to pray for more Rafiki Mothers so children on our waiting list could be received into their new home. God brought Rafiki Mother Grace to be trained in January to open cottage eleven called Corinth. Her first four boys arrived in March! *Pray for Nicholas and Jehoshaphat to learn quickly as they have entered kindergarten. Pray for Daniel and Reuben to develop a trusting relationship with their new Rafiki Mother. Pray for three more full-time Rafiki Mothers to be trained this year.*



RAFIKI MOTHER GRACE WITH HER FOUR BOYS

We will also enroll four community students, who have successfully completed a transition class into the primary five class when school resumes April 20. This will give us 100 Rafiki students and twenty-nine community students in our nine pre-primary through secondary school classes. *Pray for creative ways to utilize three MiniMissionaries who are coming to help meet the tutoring needs of these and other students who need extra help.*

We are hoping to place the Rafiki Bible Study into the hands of our partner denominations to be used in their schools nationwide. The General Secretary and Education Secretary of one of these denominations wanted to see our Bible study being taught. After observing a lesson, the General Secretary told David that this was not the conventional way to teach the Bible with memorization, principles, and personal applications, but that he was impressed. We were also having school clean-up that same day. As I was explaining the reason for all the noise and busy-ness, he said, "This is an expectation of our children to learn to take care of what they are given and to be industrious." *Pray for industrious students and excellence in our teaching methods and that God will use the Rafiki Bible Study for His glory.*

The primary six class started a new tradition this term by publishing our first edition of the "Rafiki Quartet"; our school newspaper. We took a field trip to the local newspaper, and the teacher, Jared, taught students not only how to write for a variety of purposes, but how to edit their writing. Enjoy a taste of what our P6 students are learning to do.

## "Africa"

*poetry by the JSS Class of 2009*

Africa, thorn with beautiful flower,  
The rising sun is like a brighter light.  
I feel secure under her balance and power.  
Her people shine like stars in twilight.  
Oh, my continent with beautiful mountains,  
Very rich in agriculture and trees,  
With many free and flowing fountains,  
Oh Africa, my continent, I love thee!

## "Rafiki Housing: Past, Present, and Future"

*by Blessing A. and Magdalene C. (P6 class)*

Have you considered the blessings of being sponsored? Not having to pay school fees to one of the nicest schools in the area; being fed generously and being given clothing that you haven't even bought, to name a few.

In fact, have you ever realized that you are being provided with everything you need, under the simple requirement that you learn your lessons well and do your chores? Well,

that's the way it is in Rafiki. Rafiki policy affects every area of our community inside these fences, including all 104 orphans, and more to come; it is germane, therefore, that residents understand specifically how Rafiki policy organizes the housing system.

In Africa, Rafiki does a lot of good. Rafiki sponsors provide for all the children's physical needs; caring staff provide the children with love and kindness. The children are especially provided with good housing and a family structure. Each cottage is constructed with a mixture of older and younger children, so that the little ones might learn from the older children how to behave and conduct various responsibilities.

Regarding the future, it has been said that a residence hall might be built for older students, a place where they might stay and take care of their own responsibilities. That way more room will be available for other orphans, who need help like the Rafiki children, to fill the vacant spots in the cottages. It is important that we not forget that there are millions of children who are still in great need of rescue.

Rafiki really is a grand place to stay. The children laugh, smile, and play as if they had never known sadness in their lives. The Rafiki motto seems to be, "for everything good that happens there must be a very good reason; for every good reason there must be a very good outcome." And, the fruit of Rafiki's presence in Africa has been good indeed. So, you should not be angry or sad because of things you see and don't agree with, but instead see the joy of living together in Rafiki and bear graciously the decisions they make.



A RECENT FAMILY TRIP TO CROSS RIVER STATE PARK.  
WHERE IS THAT? LOOK IT UP!

- ☼ We thank God for the first rain and end of the dry season!
- ☼ *Pray for continued full financial support.*
- ☼ *Pray for funds to purchase a van to help with Village transport of the children.*
- ☼ *Pray for our family to have whole-hearted obedience to serve God in all we do.*

With love,

*The Pederson family*

The Pedersons

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