



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give ‘the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ’”
(2 Corinthians 4:5-6).

There are often special events in childhood that evoke fond memories in later life. One that comes to David’s mind was around age nine being taken by his father to the Oregon State capital for the swearing in of the new Secretary of State. He wore the special suit coat purchased just for the occasion and was alert to all the details around him because he knew this was a very special day. The visit didn’t directly affect his choice of a career, but inside he knew that it made him stand a little taller and feel a bit more connected to the big world into which he was growing up. He soon figured out that his dad had something to do with his attending this event and as he grew up realized how important connections can become.

Connections on a Grand Scale

In preparation for the Home Office visit in February, we connected the upper Primary students with such literary giants as Lord Byron, Shakespeare, and Sandburg. Small groups memorized *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, *All the World’s A Stage*, and Arithmetic to present along with Primary Three singing *Dona Nobis Pacem* in Latin in a round. Not only did the students perform well for *Kaka* (Gramma) Rosemary, but the next day repeated the performance for a very memorable visit from His Excellency Governor Jang of Plateau State. Mr. Jang, as he prefers to be called, is a humble and highly respected Christian leader. Although what many of the children remember now are the security men with guns who scanned the Village premises, the connection gave new evidence to our children and staff that they are part of an important work.

The next week Mrs. Pauline Tallen the Deputy Governor, with the Department Heads of the Ministry of Education came. Of course they wanted to tour the school and were very pleased with what they saw and heard. When David showed Mrs. Tallen the literature the Primary Four students would be reading, she asked student Eden to read from *The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe* which she did fluently, bringing nods of approval from our visitors. Afterward they asked Rosemary if Rafiki could

provide teacher training sessions on our methods to the Education Department of Plateau State. God is using this connection to enable us to provide assistance to a struggling public school system.

Connections on a Routine Basis

These more routine connections are no less important; in fact for our children they are the heart and soul of how we are raising them in a loving and secure environment. Rafiki trains committed national staff who serve as role models for the children as they perform their daily duties. Trained teachers provide a classical Christian education beginning at three years through secondary school that connects children to a biblical worldview. Daily Bible study at home, school, and church connects them with the God who loves, cares, and provides for them. We keep the children connected to their extended family by allowing relatives to visit every six months. We are currently beginning to pilot a program to connect our children with people in the community of Jos. The Auntie and Uncle program enables an older Rafiki child to develop a relationship with a family outside of Rafiki. They will visit with them and eventually spend an occasional weekend at their home. The purpose is for them to see another family situation, experience new things, learn different chores, and make more connections with the family of God. God through Rafiki is meeting the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our ninety-eight children. Yet we have been made aware recently of one connection that is missing for some of these children.

Connections with Sponsors

Rafiki provides a way for groups and individuals to connect with individual children by being an orphan sponsor. Sponsors provide an important emotional connection with children as they learn of someone far away who loves and prays for them as well as sends essential financial support. This support keeps them clothed, fed, and educated. The sponsor writes them letters which is a special event for them to receive. In return each sponsor receives quarterly updates on the child and the most precious

handwritten personal notes from the child. In reality, a sponsor becomes part of the child's extended family. Contact the Rafiki Home Office if you would like to fully or partially support a child.

You can also connect with the children by coming out as a short-term volunteer, teachers, medical, sewers, laborers, tutors—we can put your God given talents to work. Contact the Home Office for all the details.

Connections with Us

You are receiving this newsletter because you already have a Rafiki connection through us. If not already, we want to challenge you to take that connection one more step by joining our:

- Prayer support team—receiving our prayer letter and committing to uphold us in prayer. Let us know directly to receive bi-monthly updates.
- Financial support team—your pledges keep us on the field, where we believe God desires us to be influencing lives for Christ. We are starting our 6th two-year term.
- Correspondence team—writing us encouraging words or sending care packages.



OLIVIA CONNECTS WITH ABIGAIL AND JONAH

Connecting with You

We hope to make a personal connection with many of you this summer. We are still in the process of setting up meeting dates for June and July. We will be available the week of July 7 as we return to Seattle from Orlando for visits outside of Washington. Please contact us soon if you would be willing to host a coffee.



EASTER BREAK IN WIKKI WARM SPRINGS

We ask that you join us in praying for the ongoing needs of the ministry:

- Many called, committed and mature Mothers
- That the children will trust in the love of their heavenly Father
- For opportunities for us to share this summer

In service to the Lord,

the Pederson family

David and Julie
Lauren, Anica, Amelie, and Olivia

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