



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258 • 210-244-2600 • FAX 210-244-2605

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*“From the rising of the sun, til the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD shall be praised” (Psalm 113:3).*

As in many places of the world, a myriad of birds greet the sunrise in this little corner of Africa. A dusty haze hangs in the air as shepherds begin to gather their white cattle and sheep for another day of grazing. Nearby, at the Rafiki Village, there is a literal “changing of the guard” at the gate and other workers begin to arrive. A new day has dawned at the Rafiki Village in Nigeria.

One of the exciting things about being part of a fairly new work is watching the development of the vision. Hour by hour, day by day, and year by year we work in partnership with the Lord to raise these children to be godly contributors to Nigeria. Here is a glimpse at how we seek to meet some of the goals Rafiki has for them (italicized below) on a daily basis.

Good Morning!

Inside each of the seven cottages, the children are awakened to get ready for the day. Then a seemingly endless line of children make their way to the dining hall for breakfast at 7:30 A.M.

8:00 A.M. Most mornings following breakfast, Rafiki Mothers lead their children through Bible devotions in their cottage. But on Monday, Judy Cosby, the RCC director, leads chapel for all of them. *We want to bring the children into knowledge of God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.*

8:30 School children queue up and march to school in their navy blue uniforms. *Our goal is to give them a quality Christian education.* We are more and more aware of what an advantage it is to provide these children with the basics such as scissors, puzzles, and books. Once or twice a year there are field trips. Last week, Julie’s class went to the zoo after learning about wild animals in Africa, to marvel at God’s creation!



THOSE ARE BIG TORTOISES!

10:30 The pre-school children are dismissed.

11:45 Everyone has lunch. Meals at Rafiki are simple but nutritious *meant to keep the children alive and healthy*, something that might not have happened if they had not come to Rafiki. Nigerians love carbohydrates, so yams, potatoes, and rice are common fare.



1:00-3:00 P.M. A quiet falls over the Village as the younger children take an afternoon siesta and the older ones return to school. At **3:00** they have a small snack before afternoon playtime.

3:30 On Tuesdays and Thursdays, David has started after-school sports with the primary one and two (first and second grade) children.



Tuesday is games and Thursday is running. One Thursday they were doing laps around an open space and keeping track of how much they ran. They were very enthusiastic about it but also overly competitive to the point that they were arguing among themselves and were recording that they had run more laps than Uncle David! He used the opportunity as a lesson in honesty but even more as a reminder that the Bible tells

us to "encourage one another and build each other up." He asked them, "When was the last time you told someone, 'Good job!' or 'Well done!'" Evidence that the children took the lesson to heart could be seen the next week as David watched a group of children running hand in hand so that they would all finish together.

All the children have small chores to do at home, but on Mondays the children take part in chores around the Village. Tom Maggio, the plant manager, looks a bit like the Pied Piper as he leads children around pulling weeds, collecting smaller rocks, cleaning gutters, and picking up trash.



5:30 Once again, the dining hall fills and appetites are satisfied. Some of the older children stay behind to help with clean up. Evenings are for schoolwork, reading, and bathing.

8:00 The huge orange sun has set in the African sky. The mosquitoes come out and the crickets start their music. The day is done and ends with family prayer giving thanks for God's goodness before the children climb into bed.

Weekend Fun

Weekends provide a change from the routine for the Village. Almost every Saturday includes a football (soccer) game with anyone who wants to play. Even some of the Rafiki Mothers join in. A typical Saturday includes plaiting the girls' hair and some of the girls from the RGC come to help. Sometimes the children go with their Rafiki Mother to a wedding or another special event at church. One house recently attended the Food Fair at Hillcrest school in Jos with some ROS. We are also hoping to be able to involve the older girls in Girls' Brigade, similar to Girl Scouts.



JOSIAH AND OLIVIA AT THE FOOD FAIR

We pray that activities such as these will help educate the children in the history and cultural ways of Nigeria. We also hope these provide opportunities for the children to grow in their relationships with peers and adults.



DAVID WITH
JUDITH AND
PRISCILLA

We are all eager to see our Rafiki family grow and join children such as these. Two cottages have just been outfitted and there are children waiting to fill them.

Thank God for:

- His daily faithfulness
- The many volunteers who give of their time and talents to the children
- Good healing for Olivia following three stitches on her chin

Pray with us for:

- New Rafiki Mothers so children on our waiting list can come home to Rafiki.
- Safety, rest, and fun as we celebrate Christmas in warm and windy Jos!

Wishing you tidings of great joy as you celebrate God's unending gift to us in Christ Jesus,

*David & Julie
Lauren, Anica, Amelie*

Julie and David Pederson
Lauren, Anica, Amelie, and Olivia

PMB 2714, Anglo-Jos,
Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, WEST AFRICA

E-mail: pederson6injos@earthlink.net

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