



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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December 2006

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen” (2 Peter 3:18).*

Lately, it seems, as we think about different children at the Village, we have heard ourselves or others say, “He or she has come a long way.” We have reached a point where we are able to look back and see evidence of how God’s grace is at work in the lives of the people here, not to mention in our own lives.



READY FOR SCHOOL

## In the children

Recently the primary one class took a field trip to the local government office in order to learn about authority as part of a social studies unit. The administrator there saw fit to bring in a teenage prisoner in hand and leg cuffs to use as an object lesson for the children about what happens when one does not obey authority. One little boy in the class indicated that he remembered his older sister being arrested for stealing. This little boy, who came to live at the Rafiki Village about two years ago, came from a difficult background. He was basically living on his own in his village, dependent on neighbors for survival. With that kind of background you might imagine what kind of character he developed, a tough exterior, reticent to trust anyone or receive any affection, and frequently at odds with other children and in need of constant supervision in the classroom. This past

month he had a minor difficulty with another boy at school and was brought to talk with David, the ChildCare Program director, and his Rafiki Mother. David had been teaching that week about the character of God’s grace and using the hymn *Marvelous Grace of our Loving Lord*. As they talked with his mother, not only did we refer to God’s forgiveness of sin, but that he would be washed clean on the inside. David asked him if he wanted to leave with a clean heart. He nodded and we all knelt to pray. Later, as he talked with his teacher about what had happened, he told him that he “had a pain in his heart and that it was gone.”



MOTHERS PICK UP CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

This weekend as Julie was on weekend duty, she had the opportunity to read in one of the cottages where a number of her former pre-k students live. One of the boys showed her a picture that he was drawing for his sponsor and she commented that sponsors are a blessing. They provide a way for him to come to live at Rafiki. He then asked, “Auntie, if they stopped giving money would I have to leave?” She assured him that if God brought him to Rafiki then God would be able to provide a way for him to stay. Just the day before at a practice for a Christmas program, David entered the dining hall and was told that this same boy was sitting in a corner and would not participate. He had put himself there after he had been corrected for not being in the right place. He told David that he felt sad, so they went outside to talk. He is a very bright and articulate boy. He expressed that he

was sad because he was often caught not doing the right thing. It was evident that this boy was burdened with the struggle of trying to do more right than wrong. David again felt led to explain that what Jesus had done in dying on the cross was not only to take away our sin, but also the guilt of that sin and that by praying to receive salvation through Jesus, we can have peace in our hearts. They then knelt and prayed together. After school he went to tell his mother.

We pray fervently now that he will grow in grace.



THANKING GOD FOR FOOD

### In our work

As you may have noticed over the years working with Rafiki requires flexibility and doing things for which you may have little to no training or experience. Although there have certainly been times when we have dragged our feet, we know that sometimes in the midst of it and sometimes with hindsight we have drawn closer to Jesus and learned to trust Him more. We have to remember that He knows us better than we know ourselves, what we need, and what He can do through us with the skills He has developed in us. Julie has seen this as she enjoyed being the financial manager this year. She has seen God use her in a way she never expected. At the same time, she has missed not being directly involved with the children more. In God's grace, Rafiki has asked Julie to return to the classroom starting in January—this time teaching English (grammar, reading, writing) at both the primary and junior secondary level. She loved teaching these skills while home schooling and is excited to do this at Rafiki. David will have ample opportunity to trust in God's grace and see it at work as he has the huge responsibility of overseeing the entire Rafiki Education Program in Jos which now includes the pre-primary (forty-six), primary (forty-five) and junior secondary schools (thirty). The JSS combines the former RGC and RBC programs. These students will transition into a

rigorous classical Christian education that will begin in 2007. Vocational training will continue with the girls sewing and the boys making wood animal puzzles and helping with maintenance around the Village.



LAUREN PLAYING WITH PRE-SCHOOLERS

### In our family

We see God's gracious hand evident in our family in particular these days. Olivia has settled happily into preschool and gets along well with her Rafiki classmates. Lauren, Anica, and Amelie all had best friends leave this year, at least temporarily, but they are also enjoying school and different friendships. We are grateful that at this stage of life we can still enjoy each others' company most of the time!

### Praise:

For salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

### Prayer:

- God to equip us to do our new work—not just somehow—but triumphantly
- Good family time over the holidays
- Successful transition for students and teachers into new program and jobs

A blessed Christmas to you as you grow in the understanding of God's greatest gift of grace, His Son Jesus Christ, without Whom we would not know grace at all!

Because of Him,

*The Pederson Family*

David and Julie  
Lauren, Anica, Amelie, and Olivia

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P.S. From the Home Office: the Pedersons are at 70% funding for their current term.

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