



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

Monday morning, Julie received a call from the gate saying someone wished to speak to her. It was a grandfather from a village in the area whose daughter-in-law had died during the previous week giving birth to twins. The father, this man's son, had died a few months before in an accident, leaving these twins as orphans. They had received baby formula from the chief of this large local tribe. This same chief is the man who donated the land for the Rafiki Village. Julie made plans with the man to bring the babies and go to Social Services the next day.

Tuesday morning, the man came with the other grandfather, and one baby; the boy twin had died during the night. With the man was a woman with a small metal pitcher and spoon, with which to feed the little baby girl. Social Services gave their approval and we brought the baby back to Rafiki for her physical. “Have you named her yet?” Julie asked. They shook their heads. It is common for families to wait some time before giving children their names, especially in such a circumstance. Despite her weight of three pounds fourteen ounces, she was as healthy as could be expected, but we knew we couldn't take our time in this situation.

Thursday morning, after quick approval from the Home Office, Julie headed out to the village with our Village driver and head of security who knew where the family lived. We came to their small group of family huts on the outskirts of the village, met other family members, and then waited for them to find the grandfather who was somewhere in the fields or tending his goats. When he arrived we began the process of having the adult relatives sign the agreement. This took some time as they had limited education at best and most struggled to sign their names. As they still hadn't given her a name, Julie told them she would like to call her Grace, an appropriate reminder that by God's grace she was saved.

When we arrived back at Rafiki, our resident and visiting physicians looked her over well, and she went to join her new family! Our family got to enjoy her a little “extra” because her new Rafiki Mother went on her off time shortly after her arrival and we



were helping out the assistant mother. Olivia loved being the big sister for once and was a bit put out when she had to go back to her house. Within two weeks, Grace had gained a pound and looked healthier every time the doctor looked

at her. *Mgode Allah!* We thank God!

As Julie held Grace, the above verse came to mind and the thought “how much more ‘least’ can one be than Grace?” Not much. Surely there are children born in war torn areas, or born with physical and mental challenges, or born into families that don't care, or even abuse them. But God had saved Grace and we believe with a purpose; to know Him, love Him, and serve Him.

Jesus said, **“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”** (John 10:10). He was certainly speaking in a spiritual, eternal context, but also of the here and now. So we want to give you a few snapshots of the children here, living life to the fullest. Most of these are from GAMES in October when we seek to give them enrichment activities.



COOKING OUTDOOR

In some ways people might think they live sheltered lives because we are out of town and we are our own community. But in other ways, the children here are exposed to so much more through the vast number of books we have, the quality education

they are receiving, the adults who come from far and near to be part of their lives, and the activities we introduce them to.



TENDING THE FIRE



BAKING COOKIES



HELPING PREPARE THE FOOD



READY TO PLAY BASKETBALL

Guess What? Summer 2008 is our home leave time and we will again be ready, willing, and available to share with you more about how God is working in Rafiki. Would you prayerfully consider inviting us to a gathering, large or small, familiar or unfamiliar, close or far from

Washington state? Think June – July weekday or on the weekend.

2008 also begins our new "financial term." Whether you currently support us through an ongoing pledge or would like to begin, please inform the Home Office. Thanks!!

Give God Thanks for:

- The successful Rafiki Community Medical Clinic.
- Saving baby Grace.
- His sustaining power in our lives.

Join Us in Asking God for:

- A deep love for the Savior born on Christmas Day.
- Balance of our responsibilities at work and home.
- His choice of Rafiki Mothers to care for the children.
- Full funding for our next term.
- A successful start to the new school year in January.

Merry Christmas!!

In the Lord,

the Pederson family

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

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