



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).



Historically, education has focused on the three “R’s”, and where would we be without them? They seem so basic, yet for many children in Africa, even the basics are not learned well. But a Rafiki education is about much more than the basics. It takes routine and rigor in order for our children to respond with the results we desire, that the children will grow and mature into godly contributors who will impact local villages, communities, cities, and even nations. We hope this look at a Rafiki School education will fill you with gratitude for the education you received and the education God is allowing Rafiki to give to hundreds of children in Africa who have been robbed even of the three “R’s”.

So **Read** on, **Rejoice** with us in what God is doing, and **Respond** as the Lord leads you.

The Routine:

7:50 A.M. The cottages are abuzz with energy. Any moment the school bell will ring and ninety-eight children will burst out the door. When the students are lined up on the sidewalk by grade, the teacher in charge gives the command to march in place, “By the mark, left, left, left-right. . . .” When everyone is

ready the call is heard, “Forward march!” A loud stomp and off they go to line up for opening assembly. After a short word of welcome and encouragement, the Primary students sing our hymn of the week and proceed to their classrooms. Dismissal is at 3:00 P.M.

The Rigor:

Classical education is about academic rigor. Diligence and hard work are part of the school day. At the end of every school term, the school holds a performance/recitation day. This is an opportunity for students to present the grammar of a subject that they have committed to memory. The end of Term III happened to coincide with our Home Office visit. The Primary Three class decided to memorize some of the ninety catechism questions they had learned in Bible class this year. Headmaster gave a suggested list of fifteen questions to the teacher thinking she would divide these up between the students. The teacher decided that would be too easy so she challenged the class to commit all fifteen to memory. After the teacher read each question all eighteen voices loudly proclaimed the answers for our Home Office staff.



The Results:

Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. We would like to believe the same of our children. Learning to read fluently, mastering basic facts in all subjects, using critical thinking to analyze different genre of literature; i.e. *Charlotte's Web*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the biography of Nelson Mandela; also using logic to solve story problems and appreciate classical art, music, and a love for physical exercise all contribute to building self-confident and articulate students who love and desire to serve God whole-heartedly.

The Recruits:

"Fill up your classes with day students!" was the decision by Home Office during their October visit. We continue our outreach to the community by receiving applications for day students of unemployed parents who cannot pay minimal school fees for their children to attend local schools. We pray for forty students to fill all our primary classes to eighteen students and a new Junior Secondary class of eighteen students who are under age fifteen and have completed primary school. When school resumes January 12 we may have as many as 160 students in Pre-school to JSS One. *Pray for dedicated teachers to carry on this great work.*

Really Hoping

Anyone home at cottages number eleven and twelve? Sorry, no answer. Finding twenty needy orphaned children is no problem as Julie just visited social services who approved nine more children to the waiting list. It is six mothers who need to hear the call and respond to the joys and blessings of a Rafiki family. Three mothers are needed to fill houses currently cared for by substitute mothers. Seeing a child's life change so quickly after their arrival at Rafiki keeps us diligently praying for these new mothers. *Please unite with us in prayer. In June 2003 this Village opened with four children. September 15 Julie received Esther and Christabel bringing our count to 100 children!*

We remain grateful for God's sovereignty over our family as well. Lauren is tackling her first AP course

in world history and was asked to sing a solo for the nine lessons and carols concert. Anica and Amelie can hardly be separated as they plunge into the academic world of high school and continue music and tennis lessons. Olivia has learned not to speak Hausa at school, but carries on quite successfully at play time with her friends and Village staff.



As we write this newsletter, Jos is recovering from post-local election protests that quickly degenerated into violence along religious lines. Hundreds were killed and thousands displaced over the course of three days last week. Although we were not directly affected by the recent crisis that brought Jos to a standstill, we are out in the "bush" so to speak, we did experience God's peace and the comfort of His everlasting arms. We are grateful for your prayers and loving support during this time. We are so grateful for our national staff who came to work everyday to keep our Village fully functioning and peaceful. What an opportunity to teach 100 children when the world is falling apart around them, that they can fully trust their Prince of Peace. We plan to stay close to home this Christmas. *Pray for creative and Christ-centered family time rich with the blessings of knowing and trusting our Prince of Peace.*

- Pray for the persecuted church in Nigeria to stand firm and many people come to a true faith in Christ.
- Pray for God to bring us the mothers, teachers, and children He desires to be part of this great work.
- Pray for us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

May your Christmas be filled with God's joy and peace.

Salutations,

The Pederson Family

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