



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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I read a news article recently on the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. The perspective was one of despair and hopelessness. It is and can be depressing. Millions of children are facing a bleak future, such as David a fourteen-year-old whose father died of AIDS last year and his mother is HIV positive. But circumstances led him to Rafiki, and he is now a part of our Junior Secondary School (JSS) with a whole new perspective on life.

Rafiki is all about a new perspective, one of hope and a future. We want to share with you how God is allowing us to be a vital part of that hope and future to over 100 children and fifty employees at the Rafiki Village in Jos, Nigeria.



THE RAFIKI MOTHERS

The Cottages

Guess what? Julie has a new job! Just in case we hadn't mentioned it before, being an ROS involves being flexible, or more accurately, learning flexibility as we respond to God's call to help the various needs at the Village. When the current ChildCare program director and her husband, a teacher in the school needed to leave the field, the Home Office asked Julie to fill the position. The job oversees the home life of the orphans and so she supervises and trains the mothers so that they can be the best possible caregivers for these children. It includes a weekly mothers' training meeting, weekly Bible study, and sitting in on daily cottage devotions.

Sometimes it entails fitting shoes, ordering hoes, collecting broken umbrellas, repairing relationships, and encouraging mothers in their own Bible study so that they can train these children to be godly contributors to the society. It requires lots of walking around the Village, scribbling lots of notes of things to remember, having a listening and discerning ear (from the Lord), and trusting God in incredible new ways. With God, all things are possible.

The Village

We are now officially residents of a Rafiki Village. The city dwellers have become Village dwellers. Mom and Dad have traded the daughters a twenty-minute commute for a short walk. The sounds of the city have been replaced by the sounds of children at play. Our house has an open view to the south. Currently, the view is of lush, green, rocky terrain dotted with white herds of cows and sheep. We thank God for answering our prayer for a good transition to this new location and indeed a new way of life. The girls have adapted well and have discovered that their social lives have not really suffered!



THE ROS TEAM SAYS FAREWELL TO WARREN AND PATTI BORG

The Schools

David is still the education director of our three schools staffed by fourteen teachers. Our challenging curriculum demands much from our teaching staff, but Rafiki is committed to establishing a classical Christian approach in our schools. So in addition to their daily teaching responsibilities, David recently led the teachers through an eighteen week study of classical teaching methods and biblical worldview integration training. During this time the school added three new teachers and lost five. Of those teachers only our national staff has received any teacher training courses. This only stresses the constant need for training and reliance on God's wisdom and His provision of teachers to keep up with our eager students. (Sorry, I just couldn't write a newsletter without at least one mention of our 105 wonderful students!). God's wisdom is needed as David visits classrooms, reviews weekly lesson plans, and

discerns how to prepare bi-monthly in-service training sessions that will best equip our teachers in pre-school, primary and junior secondary classes. He also leads a weekly Bible study for the national teachers and teaches the JSS Bible class where students memorize Scripture, hymns, and questions from the Westminster Catechism as well as truths from Scripture that are helping them to have a new perspective on their current circumstances.

We trust God's provision as we seek new teachers to prepare for the 2008 school year (more on that in the next newsletter). We see His provision in providing ten MiniMissionaries to fill the gaps when ROS are on summer leave to help cover classes and help run GAMES in June and July.

David also has the privilege of interviewing potential students to fill vacancies at the JSS. Part of that process is an interview at the student's home to determine that the student needs our help.



DAVID WITH NEW STUDENT LAZARUS AND HIS GRANDMOTHER IN ZAGUN VILLAGE

Lazarus is just one more student who will have a new perspective on life and the God who wants him to have new life through faith in Jesus Christ.



OUR TEACHERS LEFT RIGHT: JACKIE, AGAH, ESTHER, GRETCHEN, DAVID, DAVE, SANDRA, HELEN, ARIGU, ZHU DAVID, SOLOMON.

Thanks for your support, which allows us to be part of the Rafiki Foundations hope for the children of Africa.

Prayer Requests

- Government approval of the Junior Secondary School by the end of the year
- Wisdom and guidance for David and Julie as they direct the education and ChildCare programs
- Safety, rest, and rejuvenation for the family as we spend two weeks away in July
- Complete funding

the Pederson family

Julie and David
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