



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11 ESV).*

The most recent Rafiki Report had very exciting news, but inside was a line repeated over and over which caught our attention as it relates to you who are not currently serving long-term or on short-term assignments. “There is a place for you to serve!” Whatever your training or experience, God is able to use you. Read on about the rewards of working with Rafiki and being the Lord’s instruments of a future and a hope for so many needy children.

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, Julie is back in the classroom so we are both involved in the education program which is a major component of Rafiki’s work. As the Bible reiterates often, teachers have an awesome responsibility, but along with it comes the joy of seeing fruit in the lives of young people.

Teachers arrive at 7:30 every morning. Then it is off to the classroom to be sure that everything is in order before returning to the staff room for prayer. The prayers offered reflect the heart desire of our teachers for the students to be successful and well behaved and that we, as teachers, will reflect the love of Christ to them.



MINI MISSIONARIES HELPING IN THE CLASSROOM

We have enjoyed having MiniMissionaries in the classroom since the beginning of the school year in January. There simply cannot be too many hands involved in helping our students to succeed. This picture reflects the exception rather than the norm of having three adults in the class, but we really want to give these children every chance to succeed. The way these children started life was

often very detrimental to their intellectual abilities. If we want them to be godly leaders then we need to give them extra help to get there.

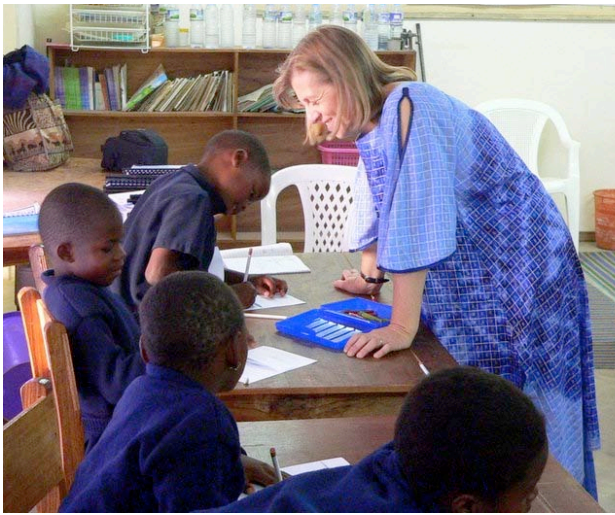
Short-term missionaries will do any number of things apart from being in the classroom as assistants, from tutoring, to administrative tasks, or helping in the library, but there are also special opportunities such as accompanying the kindergarten class to the zoo!



MINI MISSIONARY AND STUDENTS ENJOY A DAY AT THE ZOO

One day while sitting next to a student who needed help and was struggling to obey by sitting in his seat, the MiniMissionary asked what he was going to choose. He whispered under his breath “I choose to obey!” which brought great joy to the MiniMissionary. After two weeks of tutoring, another MiniMissionary said she couldn’t believe how much progress another girl had made in her reading.

Julie has been enjoying teaching the primary one class of children that she taught when they were pre-kindergarteners. What joy to see how they are growing and changing! One little girl, who spent her first three years of life in an orphanage, used to be very emotionally fragile and hesitant. Now, she is a confident first grader who is able to accept correction when she makes mistakes, share, and get along with others.



JULIE WITH HER PRIMARY ONE CLASS

Julie is also getting to know the teenage students at the Junior Secondary School. These day students who have been with Rafiki from six months to nearly three years come from the surrounding villages. In some ways they are having to unlearn and relearn the English they learned at school or home since plurals and verb tenses are only loosely adhered to.



JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Grammar sentences are full of vocabulary learning opportunities as well. Recently, Julie explored the student's prior knowledge of Egypt before reading some short excerpts about three queens of Egypt. What fun it was to show them pictures of the pyramids and hear them truly marvel that they could have been built with only rudimentary tools. After reading these stories the class did a brief comparison and contrast writing.

Most of them had a hard time writing sentences in their own words and wanted to copy information from the book. When one young man sighed in frustration and said, "I can't do this," Julie replied

quickly and with conviction, "Yes, you can!" They are all working so hard, and she has had other opportunities to encourage the class that the work of thinking hard will benefit their whole lives.

David is the education program director overseeing all three schools, but there is no greater reward than being with the children and training the teachers to ensure that the best education possible is provided.



DAVID WITH STUDENTS

We thank you for joining us in this great work. We still need financial and prayer support. Contact Home Office if you want to be a part of our work in either capacity.

**Prayer:**

- Sufficient long- and short-term missionaries to heed the call
- Peaceful local and national elections in April
- Good transition to our new home at the Rafiki Village in April

For the joy set before us,

*the Pederson family*

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