



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4040 • 210-244-2600 • www.rafiki-foundation.org

September 2004

“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them”

(Deuteronomy 4:9).

In the above verses, Moses wanted to impress on the Israelites the importance of the past. We have all heard that history repeats itself both positively and negatively, and we would do well to learn from mistakes as well as successes and remember God’s faithfulness throughout. We would like to show you how history has been at work in our lives and in this ministry.

In 1990, with one year of marriage under our belts, we headed off to teach at the American School in Shanghai, China. We found ourselves teaching kindergarten and first grade in neighboring classrooms, neither one of us very confident in our teaching assignments. Now, let us fast forward to August, 2004 in Jos, Nigeria. History is repeating itself! We once again find ourselves teaching in neighboring classrooms, this time pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. We certainly wouldn’t call ourselves experts in early childhood education, but we are grateful for the way God prepared us for this ministry fourteen years ago.

Preschoolers are preschoolers the world `round—boys love cars and girls love babies—but every culture has its own flavor. We experience preschool the African way. The first thing the four-year-old girls want to do is “back” their baby dolls. One little girl even had the play kitchen dishes stacked on her head to carry around the room. As Julie has taught about transportation, she has “enlightened” the boys that what they call a moto is what we call a car, and what

they call a machine is what we call a motorcycle. David is teaching a very familiar class because he had most of them last year in pre-kindergarten. Now they are all together again in kindergarten.

Toward the end of the first week of school, Job came to class and handed his teacher a folded up piece of paper. On it was written a barely legible message. After careful scrutiny and interpretation skills that are required of all preschool teachers, David got the gist of the message from Job.

“You are special person this is your special day. I wish you special health and most of all wish you special love.”

(The original text is on page two).

It may have been Job’s way of saying, “Thank you for coming to Nigeria to make a difference in my life.” It was God’s way of reminding David that God is writing a new history in the life of Job. He has a far more wonderful plan for this young boy’s life than any of us can even imagine.

Another adage concerning history is that those who do not know history are destined to repeat it. We are so excited to think about the history of all the children at Rafiki not repeating itself. These children have been called to Rafiki by God so that they can begin to write a new story, their own story of how they will live lives built on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ that will bring glory to God and be a benefit to their country.

During the recent visit by the Rafiki Home Office staff, plans were made to visit the designated site for the first satellite village in Nigeria. As the group approached the village near Kaduna, they were met by people beating drums and carrying banners saying, "Welcome Rafiki." They were led through town with much fanfare and gathered at the palace of the chief. The chief introduced an elderly Nigerian man and said, "See here today that history is repeating itself. This man was an orphan child, found and raised by missionaries to become one of the leaders of our community. Rafiki has come here today to build a village in our community to help our orphans. History is repeating itself!"

You, as a supporter from afar, are as important in making this vision happen as those of us who are in Africa.

Please contact us if you wish to receive our prayer letter, and inform the Rafiki Home Office if you wish to make a needed one-time donation or an ongoing pledge of financial support. We hope you understand that when you respond as God leads to support us, it makes it possible for us to help Job and others to grow up to make a difference as godly contributors to Nigerian society. God has provided faithful supporters to keep our family on the field the past seven years, and we pray that history will repeat itself here, too!

A Recent Family History

After a brief "getting to know you" period, Olivia enjoyed family and friends in the States. It took her a while to get used to seeing so many white faces! She also got well acquainted with strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and applesauce.

Lauren received the Creative Writing award for sixth grade at Hillcrest, and she, as well as the twins, received the National Physical Fitness Award. They would all like to repeat the history of their mother and get the Presidential Physical Fitness Award this school year! The twins are in separate classrooms this year—a first.

Please pray diligently for:

- committed women to accept the call to be a Rafiki Mom.
- God to protect the children on our waiting list until they can come to the Rafiki village.
- We pray that you will find a special blessing from the Lord as you support the work of Rafiki in Jos.

In the name of our Lord, Jesus,

David & Julie Pederson

PMB 2714 Anglo-Jos
Jos, Plateau State
NIGERIA

*David & Julie
Lauren, Anica, Amelie*
E-mail: Pederson6injos@earthlink.net



P.S. from the Home Office: The Pederson family is currently at 40% of the total needed for this term.