



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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September 2006

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"
(Philippians 1:3-5 NIV).

Because of the above verse, we want to share with you how God is bringing many partners into this ministry.

Much has happened since our last newsletter. In fact, we want to share a story from our absence from the Village since it was such an encouragement to us. As you read, remember that it is rainy season and snakes like to hide in tall grass! Our Village administrator wrote:

"What a wonderful summer we have had at the Village! It started with four broken lawn mowers. Can you imagine? God brought unity out of great adversity. Let me explain. We have two gardeners who can barely keep up with all the grass when the mowers are working. These two men had to begin using a cutlass to try to keep up with the grass around the houses. We also have a large area of grass we planted that had to be weeded by hand. It took two people five weeks to weed that area. The task to keep up with these two things was impossible. Then one day a pastor from a nearby church said he was coming with his congregation to help us with the grass. He brought over fifty people! Our staff was so encouraged they also began to help. Many stayed late and some spent their day off helping with the work. The Rafiki children ALL pitched in with the weeding. Some asked if they could skip "football" to pull more weeds. It was a Village-wide effort of which everyone was proud. In three days all the weeds were pulled and the grass was cut. But the most wonderful thing of all was the unity that came from working together on this project. To God be the glory!"

After a fun, fruitful, and fellowship-filled two months in the States, we jumped back into life and ministry here on August 5. The girls started school three days late but have caught up and already came home with good progress reports.

As part of her second job as assistant ChildCare Program Director, Julie gets to lead the Bible study for the Rafiki Mothers each Friday

morning. It is a blessing and a privilege to get to grow in God's Word together and what a wonderful way to get to know the mothers better and develop relationships with them. As they studied Romans 11, they had an opportunity to compare grace, which is generally understood by most of us, and mercy, for which we often have a much more vague definition. They seemed to have an "Ah Hah" moment when Julie explained that grace is receiving what you don't deserve from God such as forgiveness, and mercy is not receiving what you do deserve such as judgment.

As Julie joined the world of numbers this spring as financial manager, we would like to share some numbers connected with our work here.

Did you know that at the Village:

- Twenty-nine MiniMissionaries came to help at the Village in Nigeria from June to September.
- We employ forty plus people from the surrounding villages, the majority of whom would otherwise depend on their farming only for their livelihood. They use their income largely for their own children's school fees.
- We have eighty-six children living at the Village; all but two will be in school starting September 11.
- Olivia will be one of the children attending preschool this year at the Village for two hours each morning.
- There are seven national teachers at the school.
- There are forty students in the Early Education classes and forty-five students in primary one-four.
- A volunteer is teaching six children in primary three and four girls piano lessons.
- A volunteer coaches the boys soccer every Saturday morning.

Did you know:

- We have 415 people who receive our quarterly newsletter from eight countries and thirty

states. There are eight churches that support us as a whole. Many of you have been on "the list" for nine years now, and some are brand-new this newsletter. Some are family and old friends, others we have never met, yet we cherish your names and hope to meet someday.

- 127 of our supporters receive our newsletter by e-mail. (Would you be willing to receive this newsletter by e-mail also thus saving the Rafiki Foundation postage and paper? If so just send in your name and e-mail address to: ros@rafiki-foundation.org.)
- There are numerous individuals and churches on our prayer team who receive our monthly prayer letter via e-mail and faithfully uphold us in more specific prayer requests. (Would you like to be part of those who pray? Then send us an e-mail letting us know!)
- Our financial support is lagging behind our monthly need. (Would you prayerfully consider if God would use some of your resources for the first time in this need? A one-time donation or ongoing pledge can be made by notifying the Rafiki Home Office by using the enclosed form and return envelope.) FYI: Some of you have faithfully given for years, but if you haven't officially informed the Home Office that you are pledging a certain amount, it doesn't "count" as part of our funding percentage until the money comes in or a pledge is received at the Home Office.



DAVID AND JULIE
AMELIE, LAUREN, ANICA, AND OLIVIA

Join us in thanking God for:

- His faithful provision of ministry helpers both far and near, known and anonymous.
- The work God has given us to do here.

Please join us in praying for:

- New financial and prayer supporters and full funding
- Spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental strength from the Lord each day
- Hearts and minds to be committed to learning all God has for us as the school year begins

Your fellow workers,

The Pederson Family

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

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P.S. From the Home Office: The Pedersons are currently at 61% of the total needed for their current term six (January 2006–December 2007).

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