



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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September 2007

*“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere” (2 Corinthians 2:16).*



CELEBRATION DANCING

We have reason to CELEBRATE! In August 2007 we reached the milestone of having served with Rafiki in Africa for ten years! Thanks be to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! We can look back and see the goodness and sovereignty of the Lord and we look forward and dream about how the Lord will continue to work in us and through us to raise godly contributors to the world.



OUR SECOND PRAYER CARD CIRCA 1999

## The Beginning

When we arrived in Madagascar in 1997 we had the privilege to be involved in the leadership of the BSF classes. David was teaching ESL part time and looking for other ways to help the country. As we lived there, the Lord put it on our hearts that there was certainly more to do. It was His perfect timing because it

was then that the Rafiki Foundation was beginning to expand its vision and purpose for being in Africa. We were excited when Rosemary Jensen put out the challenge to those on the field to prayerfully consider whether a widow’s training center or an orphanage would be in our country. So it was that God led the way for us to open a widow’s center in

early 2000. Before we left Madagascar, this had transitioned into a teenage Rafiki Girls’ Center.



RAFIKI WIDOWS AND CHILDREN IN MADAGASCAR 2000

## The Transition

In 2003, with the surprise addition of Olivia, the Lord also showed us it was time to move to a place where our skills in education could be used in a Rafiki orphanage school. We landed in Nigeria in August 2003 and unless the Lord directs otherwise, we will be here until the twins graduate.

## The Present

The Rafiki Village in Jos which began as a field of grain has grown into a community. Widows and orphans, strangers really, become family. Julie hears Rafiki Mothers say “my children” and is touched to know Jesus transforms lives. One mother gave thanks last week for her “son” who has struggled since his arrival saying, “He is a different boy.” Baby Isaac, who arrived as a six-pound three-month-old and was headed for a life of malnourishment and no education is now a thriving six month old with energy and personality. Students who are struggling receive after school tutoring. Infused in all this is a spiritual foundation that will never fade away. As we have studied the Passover and Exodus, Julie was able to share with the mothers the importance of moving beyond the Law and teach the children the gospel of God’s grace through Jesus Christ, foreshadowed in the Passover.



AN ABUNDANT CORN HARVEST

### The Future

It is fun to imagine "what will be" by God's grace. A frequent one in our family is "I wonder how long it will be until the trees are tall enough to provide shade?" But more importantly, we can see God working out the vision of Rafiki in this Village. We eagerly anticipate reaching the magic number of 100 children very soon! At ninety-seven, we know it is just around the corner as we try to find the three children on the approved waiting list. In January we will begin the official JSS classes which will eventually expand to become senior secondary. At some point we will be able to bring in more day students so that we will reach not only the eventual 120 children living on site but many community orphans as well. We envision children honing skills in the classroom as well as in agricultural, arts, music, and sports. The mothers especially have eagerly begun to develop the Rafiki farm; and we hope to become more and more self-sufficient in our needs



as the farm grows.

TEACHER-STUDENT FOOTBALL MATCH

The children are certainly looking forward to the day when they will beat the teachers after a defeat in the first ever teacher/student football match. Of course, with so many personalities here we often speculate who will be the teacher or the doctor or

the fireman or the football player. Whatever God's plans for these children, we want them to not just be contributors but godly contributors here; working with integrity and for a purpose, to be the fragrance of Christ to those around, offering hope and help.

### Our Family

As Lauren signed up to take the PSAT next month we are acutely aware that she is growing up and preparing for a future herself. As Amelie and Anica successfully found "banquet dresses" this summer, we realize they are not so far behind her. Olivia, on the other hand. . .



ANICA, LAUREN, AND AMELIE START THE SCHOOL YEAR IN



AUGUST: TENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

OLIVIA AND FRIENDS LEARNING TO PLAY FOOTBALL

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

We pray that as you have read this letter you have found ways to give thanks. We give thanks for you, the "silent partners" in this adventure the Lord has let us share.

*the Pederson family*

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

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NOTE: Please visit [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org) to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.