



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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February 2004

“Your love has given [us] great joy and encouragement . . .” (Philemon 7a)

## Answers to Prayer!

To you, our dear friends who have read these pages and then have moved to prayer, we are rejoicing and we are encouraged!

Rafiki has been approved and recognized as a society in Zambia—you prayed and God answered. Work permits for Nancy and me have been granted—you prayed and God answered. As a result of these approvals, on December 15, we moved from Mzuzu, Malawi and are now living in Zambia.

## Unexpected Answers

Upon our return to Zambia from two weeks of holiday with our sons and parents, Rafiki's General Director, Rosemary Jensen, and others came to visit. In those three days, God went before us to direct our paths in most unusual and wonderful ways. We were introduced to officials of the Reformed Church in Zambia (RCZ) and developed a plan to work with them to benefit many more orphaned children in Zambia. The RCZ also offered to help us get title to a 30-hectare tract of land in Chongwe (40 kilometers east of Lusaka) on which to build the Rafiki Village. The result is that we had to change our plans and find a place to live in Lusaka. Again God provided. We have rented a new house at the Justo Mwale Theological College campus.

While we work with the RCZ and government officials to secure title to the land and get permits and approvals to start building, a Rafiki Girls' Center will be started in Lusaka. The First Lady of Zambia, Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa, has given her support to this project by offering a building to

house the Center. We are also encouraged by the planned arrival of Tim and Patty Yoss from Capetown, South Africa in March.

## What Next?

As Center Director, Nancy has the task of getting the Girls' Center ready for opening on April 1. She has the privilege of interviewing and selecting the first class of eight girls.

David has the task of getting the Rafiki Village site prepared for building. Surveys, site maps, blueprints, road construction, and perimeter walls are the day-to-day work that will make the Rafiki Village ready to receive children in 18 to 24 months.

## “You guys really think big!”

This weekend Nancy and I were at a market and unexpectedly met the Deputy Chief of Mission from the U. S. Embassy. As we talked about what had happened since our last meeting with him, he responded, “You guys really think big!” I assured him it was not that we in ourselves think big, but we move along in the ways God opens for us. He is a BIG God! Nancy and I have the blessing of seeing how He is moving in peoples' hearts to bring about His work. By some estimates there are close to 1 million orphans in Zambia. A colonel in the Zambian army declined to give the numbers of soldiers afflicted with HIV/AIDS, but did say that the barracks have many, many orphaned children living there. Everyone we talk with mentions the great need for help to overcome these tragedies and more like them.

Our hearts' desire is to relieve the suffering of as many children as we can through the

Rafiki Village. We also want to do what we can to give young girls and boys the skill and education to enable them to help themselves as they grow into productive, godly, self-sustaining contributors. Angella, a student at the Rafiki Girls' Center in Malawi, wrote to Nancy, "I will not forget about the work which you were doing here and above all, your smiling face."

Your prayers and your prayerful giving will help. We are thankful to the many of you giving regularly to our on-going support. We are also thankful to those who determine to give to support the construction and operations of a Rafiki Girls' Center or a Rafiki Village. If you have not participated with us in this way, would you prayerfully consider doing so?

### **A Wedding in June**

Nancy and I are planning for a four-week furlough in the eastern U.S. from June 5 to July 5. Our plans include visiting our supporters in North and South Carolina, eastern Tennessee and Florida. We are also happy to announce that our son, Brian, will be married to Esther Chapple (an MK whose parents are serving in Quito, Ecuador with Gospel Missionary Union) on June 19th at Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC.

Our son, Jeremy, has been called as the Jr. High pastor at Santa Rosa Bible Church in Santa Rosa, CA. Thank you for your prayers for his ministry, as well.

We would be most happy and appreciative if those living in these areas would contact us to arrange for us to meet with you. We are eager to share with you what God has been doing through Rafiki so that you may rejoice and be encouraged with us!

### **Prayer Points:**

- that God would grant Rafiki title to the land for the Rafiki Village. Construction cannot begin until the title is granted
- that God would give us wisdom as we meet officials and contractors to plan the building site
- that God would send the needed funds for the construction of the Rafiki Villages in Africa
- for the safe arrival of the Yosses as they come from South Africa
- that God would give us the young women of His choosing to begin the RGC on April 1
- that God would bless the marriage of Brian to Esther
- that God would be glorified in Jeremy's ministry to junior high students in Santa Rosa, CA
- for the continued good health of our parents

Serving Christ in Zambia,



David and Nancy Writebol

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