



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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

August 2003

Greetings from South Africa!

God doesn't always call the equipped, but He always equips the called.

Do you believe this? We sure do. Let us tell you about several examples God has displayed in our lives. When God brought us to Africa two-and-a-half years ago, neither of us could read music, sew anything, bake bread, or imagine building a coffin. When our co-workers left for furlough in May, God called us to teach music, sewing, and cooking and nutrition in addition to the other classes we had already been teaching. Then He used MiniMissions volunteers, friends from church, and our co-workers to equip us to fill His call. Pause for a minute, imagine Tim and Patty in the above mentioned roles, chuckle, and then read on to see who did what!

Sewing classes! As Patty took the reins in sewing, the curriculum called her to teach the girls how to sew denim purses, buttoned pillow covers, and blouses (a big step for one whose sewing skills had been limited to replacing loose buttons)!



New blouses from L to R: Pearl Siyalana, Nancy Mtyuthu, Nzali Poninga, Patty, and Mampho Stephen (Patty did not make her top)

Music classes! Tim was called upon to teach the girls to read music and play the recorder (a big step for one whose music skills had been limited to playing the radio)!



Nancy showing Tim which holes to cover

Cooking and nutrition! Patty and the girls have had great fun in the kitchen for the past couple of months. Julia Childs, eat your heart out! Many colorful meals were prepared, and Patty even led the girls to bake homemade bread (a big step for one who served Hamburger Helper, Mince Mate in South Africa, and Rice O Roni Casserole on a regular basis)!



Now, you may ask, "Why is *Rafiki* teaching teenage girls how to make coffins?" Fortunately, we are not! On a recent mission trip (with a team from our church in Fish Hoek) to Mpongwe Mission, Zambia,

Tim was called upon to participate in the making of coffins. Upon volunteering to work in the mission shop for a couple of days, he was told the most pressing need of the week was more coffins. Following brief introductions to the shop employees, Tim was told to watch how the first one was made before he began. He was then given a hand saw, a hammer, 1/8 inch masonite ply board, 1 inch X 1 inch railing, small nails, and a helper. Two days and eight coffins later, Tim is grateful that Jesus will call him from the grave when he dies. The experience brought home for Tim the impact of the AIDS epidemic on daily life in Africa.



Note the coffin construction behind Tim's helper

Following Tim's return from Zambia, we attended the funeral of Gloria Bonani, the daughter of Pastor Bonani in Khayelitsha, a township near Cape Town. God taught us to glorify Him the Xhosa way through an all-day funeral. The day began with the body at the family home for several eulogies. We then followed the hearse, which was a trailer pulled by a van. The "hearse trailer" resembled a small horse trailer that had glass sides. The three-hour funeral service at the church included several speakers and many songs, and we witnessed a celebration!

Following the funeral celebration, all the mourners followed the casket back to the hearse. At this point, the officials realized that the hearse had not returned to the church yet, so singing and dancing continued for the next forty-five minutes until the hearse returned. We then followed the hearse to the graveyard where Gloria's funeral was one of about a dozen occurring simultaneously.

We arrived at the site reserved for Gloria's body, only to find that another group of mourners had used her grave site by mistake. A bit of investigation revealed that a mistake earlier in the day had caused a chain of mistakes where bodies were buried in graves assigned to others. Gloria's body was returned to the mortuary to be buried another day. Our funeral procession then returned to the family home for the ceremonial washing of the hands by all mourners, before all 300 to 400 mourners were seated for a meal with the family. These experiences have served to remind us of the frailty of life and the importance of what God has called us to do.

Bible Study Fellowship

We have enjoyed our "winter" break from BSF, but the new study is upon us. Patty is preparing now for workshop trips to Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Tim is frantically reading the cooking and nutrition curriculum!

We recently had to replace the hard drive on our computer. Address changes we have made in the past couple of months may not be reflected. Our most recent monthly prayer update was sent the first week of August. If you did not receive it, but would like monthly updates on prayer needs and answers, please send your e-mail to us at the address shown below.

Love in Christ,

Tim & Patty Yoss

Tim and Patty Yoss
P.O. Box 678
Noordhoek 7979
SOUTH AFRICA

Phone: 011 27 21 789-2476

E-mail: yoss@new.co.za

Clif's e-mail: ssoyfilc@hotmail.com

Amy's e-mail: ames344@hotmail.com