



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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

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***“Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them. Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountain tops” (Isaiah 42:10-11).***

Greetings from South Africa!

## **Sing to the Lord a New Song**

We recently returned from the BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) retreat in Nairobi, Kenya, where leaders from the nations of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and South Africa gathered for spiritual refreshment. The Executive Director of BSF, Mrs. Jean Nystrand, taught from the book of Daniel on God’s sovereignty and Daniel’s integrity. “The seeds of integrity planted early in life yield life long godly behavior.” This was but one of the many principles from the weekend of lectures. We caught a glimpse of heaven as we kicked off the singing on Friday evening with *O for a Thousand Tongues*. We were short of 1000, but the harmonizing of 500 plus African leaders made praising God in song a true experience of worship.



**BSF Retreat in Nairobi, Kenya**

Saturday afternoon included leaders from each country represented singing two hymns in their first language. South Africa has eleven official languages! Because English, Afrikaans, and Xhosa are most prevalent in Cape Town, we sang a verse in each—truly a “new

song” for us! The leaders from all three countries that Patty visits with the BSF area team chose to sing *The Lord’s My Shepherd*. What a blessing it was to hear God praised through this hymn in five languages – English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Shona, and Malagasy. In this hymn we have the words of Psalm 23 put to music being sung in the BSF adult classes, school programs, and preschool programs this year as we study the *History of Israel and the Minor Prophets*.

We were able to sense the “big picture” of the work of BSF as we viewed the video presentation, “BSF Around the World” seeing pictures from many of the 990 BSF classes from 30 countries around the globe.

## **Sing to the Lord a New Song**

During our time in Nairobi, we enjoyed a visit to the Rafiki Village. As we toured the campus, we noted the six cottages, kitchen, and dining hall that were nearing completion. Five African mamas have been selected and trained, and nineteen orphans have been identified for the village.



**The gate at Rafiki Village Kenya**

As we drove through the gates of the village, it was as if we left one world behind and drove into the next. The village is tucked away behind a six-foot wall. Standing on the outside looking in, one would never know what to expect on the inside. The words that come to mind as a first impression would be "a little part of heaven, a place filled with God's love, giving orphans a family of their own, where they will feel safe and loved. A place where some of the less fortunate boys and girls from the surrounding areas will be taught some of the life skills needed in order to make something worthwhile of themselves." Visiting this village with the realization that Rafiki is moving to concentrate its resources on ten such villages has filled us with excitement as we look ahead to our next chapter with Rafiki.

### **Sing to the Lord a New Song**

We have been asked to help build a Rafiki Village in Kitwe, Zambia. It seems amazing that God is now sending us, not only to the country Tim visited on a mission trip last July, but to the exact part of the country that he visited (the Zambian Copper belt region)! But we know that our God is not surprised. We will report to the Village Administrator, David Writebol, in the early part of next year. As we ponder our next assignment, we reflect back on what God has used us to do in South Africa. As they leave Rafiki, women and teenagers from the Cape Flats who have been exposed to God's Word, now have hope and employment. We leave behind the Sarah Baartman Soap factory, where two Rafiki graduates are producing and selling soap in South Africa. In addition to their soap production, they invite ladies from their communities to come work alongside them to build a resume, which is allowing them to find employment. The concepts taught during their Rafiki training are now being gifted to others.

The majority of our last group of teenagers have been able to use new found computer skills to find employment. A lady from our church is the manager for the data entry department for a company that sells survey services. The girls have been employed by her to enter the survey results into computers. We are working diligently and are confident that we will be able to place 100% of our current trainees into employment before our departure.



As we look expectantly to the work God has for us in Zambia, we believe that God is calling us to serve Him for another term with Rafiki. Would you pray to see if God is leading you to be part of His work in Africa? You can join us in this work in several ways. If you believe God is calling you to serve as a missionary, we invite you to contact the Rafiki Home Office in San Antonio, Texas, to see how God might use you. Alternatively, we invite you to continue to support God's work by coming alongside us with prayer and/or financial support. As you use the forms provided by the Rafiki Home Office to indicate your support for this work, please indicate our ROS number 117 where appropriate.

#### **PRAISES:**

- Three years of health, strength, and safety to serve in South Africa
- An enriching, enjoyable BSF retreat in Nairobi
- Professions of faith in Christ by Rafiki trainees

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Success for trainees in their new jobs
- God's guidance and timing for our move to Zambia.
- Additional ROS to serve in the ten Rafiki Villages.
- Success for Clif and Amy as they continue their college careers.

Singing to the Lord a new song,

*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](mailto:yoss@new.co.za)

NOTE: The *Rafiki* web site has been revised. Please visit at [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org) and find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.