



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“. . .but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart”
(Ephesians 5:18b – 19).

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior!

I am sure by now you have heard the exciting news that the Rafiki Foundation is producing a Bible study to be used at each of the ten Rafiki Villages in Africa. The Bible study is for all Rafiki Overseas Staff (ROS, like myself), employees, Rafiki families, and students. The Rafiki Bible Study (RBS) is a rigorous study of the Bible from Genesis through Revelation and will be shared with the schools of our partner churches in each country, thus providing thousands of students with a well-developed and comprehensive Bible study. As part of the RBS, traditional hymns of the faith are learned each week. It is a great joy to see how important these hymns have become to the students and children at our Village. In this newsletter I would like to share about some of these hymns.

“Trust and Obey” is a favorite of the children at the Rafiki Village Zambia which they learn at an early age. As they walk to and from the dining room, are sitting on their porches, or completing chores, they are frequently heard singing this hymn, singing loudest on the refrain “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”



CHILDREN SINGING AS THEY GO TO THE LAUNDRY

“May the Mind of Christ My Savior” is a wonderful hymn that was new to most of our students. The second verse of it begins “May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour” and it is

our prayer that God’s Word does, indeed, dwell in our hearts and minds. To that end, we require our students, beginning with the three-year-olds, to memorize a Bible verse and catechism question and answer each week. Memorizing is easy for the little ones, and they use that gift to begin to learn truths about God, beginning with “Who made you? God. What else did God make? Everything.” Older students learn from truths such as “How many persons are there in the Godhead? There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.”



KINDERGARTEN CLASS PRACTICING CATECHISM LESSON

Please pray the RBS will be a powerful and effective tool to put God’s Word into the hearts of students at Rafiki Schools and partner church schools.

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” is a wonderful hymn about Jesus that we have learned recently. The second verse of this hymn states “I love thee because thou hast first loved me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree.” This is in sharp contrast to what is too-often preached in the churches many of our employees and students attend where they are taught that salvation is because of what the person does and not because of what Christ did. It is a privilege to teach and reinforce the wonderful truth that it is **“by grace [we] have been saved through faith. And this is not of [our] own doing. It is the gift of God”** (Ephesians 2:8).

Please pray that not only will each employee at the Rafiki Villages and each student in the Rafiki classrooms know personally that Christ has purchased their salvation, but that they will share this good news in their churches and communities.

"Though Troubles Assail Us" is a new hymn but it has become a favorite, especially for our Junior Secondary Students (JSS). These day-students face the same troubles as do all teenagers as well as troubles more common to growing up in Africa. These include growing up as a single or double orphan, greater health and safety dangers, and living in a culture where witchcraft is commonly feared. I've encouraged the students to remember the last phrase of every stanza of this hymn which states "The Lord will provide" to remind themselves of God's omniscient, omnipresent sovereignty in their lives.



JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS SINGING IN BIBLE CLASS

We here at the Rafiki Village Zambia have certainly seen the Lord provide in the past few months. God has provided many MiniMissionaries who have helped with our school-break program GAMES and who provided puzzles, books, and educational DVDs for us. MiniMissionaries in August provided help with painting, after-school tutoring, and sewing. We thank God for providing all the extra hands during the past few months.



MINI MISSIONARIES AND RAFIKI CHILDREN AT GAMES

God also provided two Rafiki Home Office staff members to come during August to help with the construction of our primary school building. We are deeply grateful for all their work.



STUDENTS WITH RAFIKI HOME OFFICE PERSONNEL STEVE KRANZ AND CHRIS MOYER OUTSIDE THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please pray that God will provide teachers, as well as *Rafiki Mothers*, so we may continue to grow. Please pray, too, for God to provide a donor for the completion of the JSS school. And finally, thank you for providing the financial support needed so that I am fully funded for another two-year term beginning January 2010!

"And Can It Be That I Should Gain" is another wonderful hymn that was taught as part of the RBS. It is my personal favorite and has become a favorite of all our students as well. The refrain of this hymn is "Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" I pray that each of you joins in rejoicing in God's amazing love.

In God's love,

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