



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 1988 • Eustis FL 32727-1988 • 352-483-9131 • FAX: 352-483-9132

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*“Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart”*  
(Psalm 37:4 NIV).

Tell me, how is it possible that two middle-aged people, living a very comfortable life in rural Colorado, surrounded by every convenience known to man, could find themselves desiring with all of their hearts to serve the Lord on the ‘dark’ continent of Africa? “What are you thinking?” our friends ask. You have five years until retirement, at least wait until then! Our only explanation is this: **“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”** (Philippians 2:13 NIV). We do know that we did not come up with this idea on our own. It was not even a blip on our radar screen before October of 2009. Even as a little girl, I remember clearly the times I asked God to please never send me to Africa. Now Stan and I both are praying “God, PLEASE send us to Africa!” God, who has put the desire in our hearts, has graciously provided the means of fulfilling that desire.

We want to let all of you know of our hope to serve with the Rafiki Foundation as full time ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff). The Rafiki Foundation has built a Village in ten countries on the continent of Africa. The primary purpose of each Village is to give orphans and vulnerable children a loving home, provide them with a modified-classical, Christian education, and raise them to become godly contributors to their home country. The ROS who operate these Villages commit to serve two years at a time, for as long as they are called or are able. We would hope to serve far beyond the minimum, but do recognize the “able” part is not up to us.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are estimated to be more than forty-five million orphans due to AIDs, war, starvation, poverty, and disease. Although it is impossible to reach every one, the children who are reached through the Rafiki Foundation are changed forever. Stan and I were able to see ninety-eight examples of such change when we were serving at the Rafiki Village Uganda this past fall. One such example occurred on a trip into Kampala to take Samson (age eight) and John (age five) to the doctor. I found myself and the ChildCare director driving home in the dark; not a recommended practice in Uganda. Navigating the unlit roads through crowds of people on foot, boda-bodas, bicycles, and vehicles abandoned in the middle of the road, requires nerves of steel, a steady hand on the wheel, and an unwavering trust in God’s care and protection of His own. To relieve the anxiety we were beginning to feel, the ChildCare director suggested we sing. Without missing a beat, eight-year-old Samson began with these words:

“Under His wings I am safely abiding, Tho the night deepens and tempests are wild;  
Still I can trust Him, I know He will keep me, He has redeemed me and I am His child.”

Samson taught us that beautiful old hymn “Under His Wings” as we drove singing through the night back to Rafiki. I was humbled as I reflected on the complete trust of this child who has no father, in the care and provision of his Heavenly Father. If there is ever to be any lasting change on the continent of Africa, it will be one life at a time, just like Samson.

Suffice it to say, we are excited to begin this journey. We cannot yet answer all the questions you might have. Where? We do not yet have our assignment. When? We also don’t know, but hope to be on the field within six to seven months. What will our job descriptions be? We also don’t know, BUT we are certain that Stan will be fixing things (a lot) and Cecilia will be somehow involved with children, either in the ChildCare Program, or the Education Program. She, however, will not be fixing anything, unless it is a skinned knee.

We would humbly ask you to consider how God might want you to join us on this mission. First and foremost we covet your prayer support. Because Overseas Staff cannot be self funded and must be fully funded before departure, we must raise financial support through donations and pledges. We would love to have you participate with us in this ministry. We sincerely and gratefully thank you in anticipation of what you might do; and we wait in anticipation of all that God, Who is in need of nothing, will do with gifts from hearts willing to give.

Our warmest regards to each of you,

*Cecilia + Stan*

Cecilia and Stan Gryde  
4921 South Lake Gulch Rd  
Castle Rock CO 80104

ROS #203  
E-mail: [sgryde@aol.com](mailto:sgryde@aol.com)  
[sporepea@aol.com](mailto:sporepea@aol.com)