



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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April 2007

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).*

Greetings friends and family! Over the past several months, as you’ve heard of my plans to work as an ROS in Ghana, many of you have expressed interest in knowing more about Ghana itself.

Ghana is located in West Africa, north of the equator, bordered on the west by the Ivory Coast and by the country of Togo on the east (not far from Nigeria). This year Ghana is celebrating its Golden Jubilee—fifty years of independence from Britain. In fact, Ghana was the first sub-Saharan African state to win independence from a colonial power. The current president of Ghana, John Kufuor, was recently elected to be the next Chairman of the African Union—an organization formed in ‘01 to help secure democracy, human rights, and sustainable economies in Africa. Although considered by many experts to be a shining example of a stable, democratic government in Africa, Ghana also suffers from many serious problems that plague the continent of Africa.

Of Ghana’s population of twenty-two million, nearly one million are orphans. Ghana has a Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs, established in 2001 to promote the welfare and rights of children, but despite this there remain terrible violations of children’s rights. The most widespread problem is the use of child labor. Experts estimate there are nearly 800,000 child laborers in Ghana—many of whom are orphans and vulnerable to sexual exploitation while living on the streets (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

As for education, the Ghanaian constitution mandates free and universal education at the primary and junior secondary levels, but not at the secondary level (the equivalent of high school). Although the school enrollment rates in Ghana are high in comparison to most African countries—39% of boys and 33% of girls in Ghana are enrolled in secondary school—the education system has severe limitations. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, reports that the country needs “17,000 teachers and 13,400 classrooms” and according to UNICEF, in some areas of the country, less than 50% of the teachers are qualified.

So where does the Rafiki Foundation fit? Orphans and vulnerable children are at the heart of Rafiki’s work. There are currently sixty children—many of whom were orphaned, abandoned, or abused—living at the Rafiki Village in Accra, Ghana. All of these children, as well as a number of teenage girls from surrounding communities, are receiving a modified classical Christian education that meets national standards. Because of Rafiki’s efforts, these children will have the opportunity to be the future teachers, doctors, and leaders of Ghana.

I am so pleased and eager to take part in God’s work in Ghana by becoming a teacher at the Rafiki schools. How can you help the needy in Ghana? I hope you will continue to pray for me as I raise the funds necessary for this work. Please consider pledging financial support as well. (This can be done on Rafiki’s website [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org) or by filling out the enclosed pledge envelope.) Know that your support has greater implications than helping me to work in Ghana for two years; it has the potential to impact Ghana’s future.

With love and gratitude,

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