



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*"... I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5 ESV).*

Dear friends and family in Christ,

Hello again from Jos, Nigeria! I trust you are well and resting secure in the hands of God. I am pleasantly surprised to see that the three months since my last letter to you have already passed and it is time again to write. Just a few weeks ago, I celebrated the completion of my second year on the field! All thanks and praise to the Lord for sustaining me and thanks to you for your faithful support. I am doing well and I thank you for your prayers for my strength, health, wisdom, and joy.

I have been impressed through my Bible study of how God works through us in relationship to Him and to each other. Your partnership with me has enabled me to serve here at the Rafiki Training Village Nigeria. Through a relationship with God we work in our various roles and occupations to bear fruit for God. This fruit is simply a Christ-like life produced by the Holy Spirit. We work intimately connected with God, not on our own. As the branch receives nourishment from the vine so we receive and draw life from the Lord Jesus. As the fruit matures, the credit does not go to the branch but to the vine dresser, God the Father. A branch that is not connected will wither and die just as a person living apart from the saving grace of God is lost.

## **Satellite Village Project**

Rafiki's newest work in Nigeria is a satellite village that was made possible through another unique relationship. A satellite village is another community for orphaned children that will be supervised and supported from the training village. To make the satellite village possible required the partnership of the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), Rafiki, financial supporters in the U.S., and several Nigerian landowners at the location near a village named Uguwar Rimi. Leaders of the ECWA Church (with six million members in West Africa) became familiar with Rafiki staff in Jos as the training village was being developed and brought news of the opportunities to assist children in other areas. Village leaders in the Uguwar Rimi area shared the opportunities with local landowners who were led to donate their land for a community for the orphaned children in the region. Giving land in Africa is a significant event, illustrating the local people's desire to glorify God and assist those in need. The people

also displayed their investment in the new project in other ways.

## **Perimeter Fence Constructed in Record Time!**

After the land donations had been settled, the Rafiki Home Office staff selected a general contractor for the village. Nuhu Dikko is an architect and lives in Kaduna, the same state as the new village. Nuhu got right to work and purchased materials for a perimeter fence. He planned to start installing the fence by 7 A.M. one Saturday morning in March of 2006. When he arrived at the worksite by 6:45, he found to his surprise that the local men had arrived ahead of him around 4:30 A.M. and instead of waiting, started getting to work and had the fencing, including digging holes for concrete posts, nearly completed! Nuhu has his own team of engineers, foremen, and carpenters but has relied on local men and women for the majority of the masonry and labor work. The local people have organized themselves into work teams. One team is led by a local pastor who is also a master mason.

## **Satellite Village a Smaller Version of the Training Village**



The Rafiki Satellite Village at Uguwar Rimi (the name means "village of the Rimi or silk cotton tree") will be a smaller version of the established Rafiki Village in Jos. Under construction are fourteen buildings: ten homes for ninety children with one mother in each, two school buildings, a village director's home, and a childcare director's home. The village director and childcare director as well as teachers will be trained at the Rafiki Training Village in Jos before hiring and training mothers and receiving children. Rafiki will provide the funds for construction and operations and supervise the operations for five years and then hand the village over to ECWA leadership. ECWA has already set up an executive advisory council and a local council to oversee the village.

## Satellite Village Dedication Set for July!

Construction of the buildings began in November of 2006. The work has steadily progressed and soon the roofs of the buildings will be installed. In July, God willing, the satellite village will be dedicated when Rosemary Jensen and the Rafiki Home Office staff make their annual trip to Nigeria. I have accompanied the Rafiki Village Nigeria director, Melanie Martin, on several inspection tours since November. On one of the visits the local chiefs of the people met with the ECWA Village Advisory Council to express their support for the village. Many of the local population including school students were in attendance. Everyone I have met has shown a genuine enthusiasm for having this new work in their community. *Pray for the workers as they complete the buildings and for the selection of the staff who will be directing the village.*



ECWA VILLAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

## News From the Rafiki Village Nigeria

All has been well here at the Village, thanks to God. The children are hearty and healthy. Some of the boys are wearing forearm casts from some typical boy-like behavior but that has not dampened their energy in outdoor play a bit. We received our ninety-seventh child a few weeks ago, a four-month-old boy named Isaac. He is small and thin at six pounds. (that's right six lbs.!) but his Rafiki Mother Chundung is hard at work helping him to catch up.

We conducted two graduations for our former girls' center students. I was assigned to teach the cooking class to one of the groups when I started two years ago. Many of the girls are purchasing sewing machines and starting their own businesses. It is a blessing to see some of the fruit of our labor in teaching and encouraging these young women. We have been gradually accepting new students into the Junior Secondary School Program. We currently have sixteen teenage boys and girls. They report science class as being the hardest and are studying Genesis in their Bible study class. *Pray for these young people that they will be able to consistently attend school and be able to meet the standards for progress.*



SOME OF OUR HEARTY AND HEALTHY CHILDREN

## Another Successful Community Medical Clinic!

In April, our Village MD, Dr. Lee Johnson was assisted by Portland Mithen (physician's assistant) and Jerry Prenzlou (lab tech) for another medical clinic. They were supported by a team of Nigerian volunteers for registration, translation, nursing, and pastoral counseling. During the clinic people from the local area received a medical evaluation and treatment for a minimal cost. Over 500 children and adults were treated over the ten-day clinic.

## Looking Ahead to the Summer

I'm looking forward to a busy summer. Several staff will be traveling to the U.S. in June/July for training and deputation and there will be MiniMissionaries visiting to assist with activities and teaching. Our Home Office staff and guests will come in July for their annual visit and the dedication of the satellite village. We're hoping to build a regulation soccer field and exercise park for the children. If you are considering a short-term mission trip the summer months are a wonderful time to visit. For more info, you can check the website.

I pray you will continue to abide in the Lord Jesus and that you would glorify Him with the fruit of your lives.



Tom

Yours in Christ,

Tom Maggio

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NOTE: Please visit [www.rafiki-foundation.org](http://www.rafiki-foundation.org) to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.