



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever’”*  
(Genesis 13:14-15, ESV).

Dear friends and family,

It has been a wonderful three months since I last wrote to you, as I have started to learn about the amazing people of Nigeria and enjoyed the providence of our amazing God! I am reminded of this Scripture verse from Genesis as God repeated the promise He made to Abram when he came to a new land and needed encouragement. I want to share with you all of the opportunities for serving God here at the Rafiki Village in Jos, Nigeria, that God has shown me as I lift up my eyes and look around.

I have been teaching two classes at the Rafiki Girls' Center: cooking and nutrition and computers. I enjoy the eagerness of the girls in learning new methods of preparing food and sampling new foods that make up a well-balanced diet. After each class we prepare the noon meal and the girls have learned to rely on God's enabling as we work together to prepare a nutritious meal for forty-five girls and staff members. The food has been enhanced by the fresh herbs and spices from the garden we planted in May. The flowers have provided a pleasing adornment to our table settings.



The girls continue to grow each day in confidence with new skills and knowledge they are learning as well as in maturity by receiving the truth of God's Word. **Pray for these girls to develop discernment and to apply God's truth to their lives.**



For three weeks in June and July, I planned and assisted with activities for the school children during their vacation break. The GAMES (Games, Art, Music, Enrichment, Sports) program provides them an opportunity to learn and have fun in a structured setting. The children learned about things that fly and things that grow. The lessons pointed to God whose Holy Spirit works like the wind and who is like the vine that gives life to the branches.



**Pray that the children would grow to love and serve the Lord.**

As people walk and drive by the Rafiki Village their eyes have been lifted up to see the new construction of the Rafiki Boys' Center (RBC). The buildings are nearly complete and have been generating a great deal of interest. We have handed out over eighty applications for candidates and will start interviewing boys in few weeks.



The vocational training program will complement the girls' center and will focus on training boys to be godly men and to teach them to perform manual trade skills. The RBC consists of a classroom building and a workshop and the students will receive three hours in classroom instruction and three hours of skill training each day. The students will assist the Village by applying their skills in maintaining the buildings and vehicles and by performing improvement projects and horticultural activities. ***Please pray for God to lead us in selecting the students who would benefit most from the training.***

Planning for the start-up of the program on October 3rd has been my main focus for the past month. I have been busy traveling into Jos to purchase equipment, materials, and supplies for outfitting the RBC. I am also working closely with Tom Cosby who will be teaching the auto mechanics portion of skill training as well as mathematics to the first-semester students. Tom has served as plant manager for the Village since construction started in 2002 and was selected because of his expertise in mechanics and building skills. ***Pray for our working relationship and for the planning of the skill training.***

August has been an exciting month here at the Village. The Rafiki Home Office staff visited along with Dr. Ken Jones and Dr. Mark Talbot to teach at the annual Pastors' Conference. I was able to speak briefly to the nearly 250 pastors about the upcoming RBC program. I also moved into a new home along with my neighbors, Dr. Lee and Dianne Johnson, newly arrived in Nigeria in July. It is a comfortable two-bedroom duplex placed in a beautiful setting, and I am feeling very blessed to be able to live at the Village. ***Pray that Christ's name would be honored in our homes.***



Your partnership by prayer and financial support makes all of this possible. Thank you! You are in my prayers and I pray your eyes would be lifted up in faith to our gracious God!

In Christ's love,

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.