



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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May 2009

“The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore”
(Psalm 121:8 NIV).

Dear family and friends,

Much has happened here since our last newsletter in February. Construction is moving ahead and our Village has grown by eight more feet—Claude, Diane, Dadi, and Mukanoheli now call Rafiki Village Rwanda home. They are settling in nicely and adjusting well to a regular schedule of meals, a comfortable home, siblings, and a Rafiki Mother who loves them, not to mention all the new “aunties and uncles” who also shower them with hugs, smiles, and encouraging words. The change in each child is truly amazing, and we give God all the glory and honor as we witness how His love visibly transforms them.



HOME AT LAST

We have been astir with such activities as birthday celebrations, a special afternoon tea time under the Yoss’ banana tree, an Easter Braii (South African version of a BBQ) and the losing of a first tooth, to name a few momentous events.



EASTER BBQ



EASTER MEAL



ENJOYING BANANAS

School started the second week in April and is held in a cottage that has been transformed into a very workable solution for the time being. The school day begins with everyone gathering at the gazebo, singing the Rwanda national anthem with the Rafiki Mothers and aunties, and then the children are off to morning classes. Auntie Cricket teaches the daily Bible lesson. Auntie Annie is the Education Director and teaches four four-year-olds and two five-year-olds. Bev started as teacher of the three-year-old class of eight boys and girls.



BEV WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN

Auntie Cricket is now teaching the three-year-olds as Bev is now the substitute ChildCare director while Patty and Tim Yoss are on furlough for thirteen weeks. Bev is also the health manager for the next few weeks and is alert to the medical needs of the children and mothers, as well as the kitchen staff. She leads a weekly Bible study with the mothers and also a weekly training session with them. She oversees the kitchen and dining hall, working with the cooks and laundry staff, training the staff to keep the meals and menus current, overseeing the ordering of supplies, keeping things running smoothly so meals are served on time and "tweaking" as necessary.

Ken is incredibly busy with paperwork, meetings, and doing preliminary work locating orphans. There is always much to be done securing all the correct information and getting it to the right organization or facet of government. He is also the plant manager and helps with the bookkeeping some as Tim is away. So his day can be quite varied—teaching the national workers' Bible study each morning, then spraying for ants around a cottage, meeting with the mason down at the building site, changing clothes and going to town for a meeting with the Minister of Finance, picking up a few wheelbarrows and tying them to the top of the vehicle and then ordering cement for the big dining hall, making phone calls and writing reports, as he waits for meetings with local officials. He also leads the weekly ROS Bible study.

Our days are full and busy and we praise the Lord for the privilege to serve Him here in Rwanda. We are thankful for good health and stamina and know all we are, have, will have, or will be comes from His hand and we are eternally grateful. We also appreciate your partnering with us the past two years and look forward to seeing many of you as we come to the States on furlough from the end of June to September. We know we could not serve here

without your undergirding prayers and financial support. God has blessed us beyond measure through your faithfulness to Him. We must raise our total support for the next two years during this time in the States. We encourage you to make a pledge of support, if so led by the Lord, so Rafiki will know your intent. Please contact us via e-mail if you would like us to come share what the Lord is doing through the Rafiki Foundation as we serve here in Rwanda in the precious mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Our travel schedule is as follows:

- June 23, 24 Leave Rwanda, arrive in Florida
- Jun 25 – July 3 Meeting/Training, Home Office
- July 4 – 19 Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia
- July 20 – Aug 5 Oregon and Washington
- Aug 6 – Sept 22 Maine and New England
- Sept 23 Leave the States for Rwanda, arriving Sept 24

We have need for housing as we travel and stay in these many areas. We also have need of a vehicle while we are in Maine.

Please pray:

- That the children will come to trust Christ as their Lord and Savior early in life.
- That the children will learn well in school.
- For good health, strength, and stamina for children, mothers, ROS, and national staff.
- For qualified applicants for mothers and mothers' assistants
- For ROS travel mercies during furloughs

Looking forward to seeing you.

Love in Christ,

Ken and Bev

Bev and Ken Merrill

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