



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV).*

Dear Family and Friends,

What a joy it is to be writing to you from Rwanda!

Patty and Tim Yoss and I arrived safely in Rwanda on 23 July. The 500 kilometers (300 miles) between Kampala, Uganda, and Kigali, Rwanda, took us about nine hours by road and went without a hitch, for which we are truly grateful.

It is a privilege to be a part of the "start up team" for the Rafiki Foundation in Rwanda. This is a country much in need of prayer. There are still many hurting people after the 1994 genocide in which nearly one million people were murdered in a mere 100 days. It is believed that there are more than 500,000 orphans from the genocide, war, and AIDS living in this small country of 26,338 sq. km (9482 sq. miles). There are over 85,000 child-led families caring for about 300,000 children. All these point to a real need for Rafiki to be in this small and hurting country. We are praying that it will not be too long before we can bring the first of many of these vulnerable children home to the Rafiki Village. While the Rafiki Village is being constructed, we will be helping the First Lady with a pre-vocational training center for teenage girls who are unable to complete high school.



TIM, PATTY, AND CRICKET ON PROPOSED SITE FOR THE RAFIKI VILLAGE.

A beautiful piece of land, overlooking hills and valleys was given to Rafiki as the proposed site for the Rafiki Village, however, the survey completed last month showed that the property is too small. We realize that the Lord has another piece of land in mind for our Rafiki Village, so we continue to wait on Him to reveal the perfect property where He would have us build.



HAVING THE PROPERTY SURVEYED

Serving in a new country brings with it new challenges. The biggest of those challenges has been in communicating with the local people. The most commonly spoken language is Kinyarwanda. This has been an exciting time as my teammates and I have embarked on a mission to learn the language enabling us to share God's love with the many street children as well as other locals we encounter on a daily basis. At the moment we have a limited vocabulary, so we practice our Kinyarwanda on anyone who looks our way. Our often mispronounced words are met with warm smiles and corrections.



STUDYING KINYARWANDA WITH OUR LOCAL TUTOR, MUSONI

Having tools to learn a new language makes studying easier. After much searching, we were blessed to be able to find two booklets which have been helpful. Knowing how to pronounce these foreign words, however, is another story. I'm grateful that Patty has been prepared to spend time with our tutor recording many words and sentences.



PATTY AND MUSONI MAKING LANGUAGE STUDY TAPES

Another fun challenge has been finding a vehicle to buy. I never gave it a second thought, thinking that I would just be able to walk onto a second-hand car lot and choose a car. Yeah right!!! There is no such thing as a used-car lot in Rwanda. In fact, on our first visit to the only car show room in Kigali, we found no cars, only racks of brochures. Finally after eight weeks of searching and checking out dozens of vehicles located by word of mouth inquiries, the Lord led me to just the perfect one. It needed to be push started in order for me to take it for a test drive, but at least car batteries are easy to come by in Rwanda. I named my car "Umugisha" which

means blessing in Kinyarwanda. It has indeed been a blessing from the Lord.

A number of people have mentioned that they have e-mailed me and not received a response. I have been experiencing some e-mail difficulties. If you are one of those who have not heard back from me in some time, please go ahead and re-send your e-mail to me. The chances are that I have not received it.

I will be going to the States on furlough during the month of December. My plans are as follows:

- Michigan: 4 – 7 December
- Washington: 7 – 11 December
- Colorado: 11 – 16 December
- Missouri: 6 December – 1 January
- Texas: 1 January – 7 January

I look forward to seeing as many of you as is possible during my stay in the States.

**Praises:**

- Safe arrival in Rwanda
- God's provision of a vehicle
- Health and safety

**Prayer Requests:**

- For a suitable piece of ground in order to build the Rafiki Village
- For the work in Rwanda, and for the granting of tax exemptions
- Continued vibrant relationship with God
- Language studies
- Continued good living and working relationship with teammates

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. I appreciate you.

Love Always,

Cricket Meyer

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