



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it”* (Proverbs 22:6).

Dear friends, family, and fellow supporters,

Today is a day like most days here at Rafiki—filled with singing, laughter, learning, and love. Molding eager minds to have a joy of learning and a love for God is the great privilege God has given me here in Tanzania. Every weekday twelve Rafiki “resident” students and five day-students (children who cannot afford school fees and who live with their guardians in the surrounding area) come eagerly to school.

Here is a run-down of our schedule:

- First we have assembly with the Junior Secondary students, singing the National Anthem in Swahili, then the “Student Prayer” in English. Sometimes the children also recite their Bible memory verse or answer Catechism questions.
- We then walk single file to our classroom, ready for a morning of learning and fun.
- Our daily schedule includes: printing, language, pre-reading, Bible, math, fine motor skills, PE, and center time. I took my camera to school today to show you some of our activities.
- At the end of school, the children go with my assistant, Teacher Nsia, to have lunch in the dining hall.

Now for a glimpse into the classroom.

A Day in the Life of the P1A Class



Here we are—seventeen lively, happy, enthusiastic, and sometimes mischievous children—ages four to eight. Teacher Nsia is my able assistant. Our

classroom is presently in one of the training cottages, but when the new school is finished in July, we will move our classroom there.



Irene takes great joy in doing her ABC puzzle. We have a variety of fine motor activities from coloring, cutting and pasting, to puzzles, play dough, and blocks. Irene is especially proud today because she has learned her letters and is able to put the ABC puzzle together quickly by herself.



Our theme for the week was “God Made the Ocean.” Here the children go “fishing” for some of God’s creatures—everything from plastic tropical fish to sea shells, turtles, and starfish. The children learn to

count with the manipulatives as well as play with them. We had a poem about five little fish that swam in a deep pond. The children delighted in acting out the poem in front of the class. They're not only having a great time in class, but they are learning correct English pronunciation and good sentence structure.



We have PE every day. The Rafiki curriculum gives a wide variety of physical activities that keep the children fit while they're having a good time. As you can see, it's quite an active time, and I am very thankful that Teacher Nsia takes the responsibility for this class.



Here is our classroom where we learn our alphabet, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, colors, shapes, pre-reading activities, fine motor skills, and Kiswahili (the national language) among many other things. Some of the class rules are to sit properly in your chair, listen carefully with your ears, and have your eyes on the teacher. Well, Frank (boy in the front row) just got a little distracted by my camera. At the end of the day if the children haven't been counted (our form of positive discipline), they are on my honor roll for that day. Each morning I announce who made the honor roll. They take such pleasure in achieving small victories. Everyone cheered when our newest boy finally made the honor roll. He had come from an undisciplined environment and had an initial learning curve adapting to our classroom procedures. It is a sweet victory to hear the children cheer for a new classmate.

As I was photographing the children, I turned around and snapped this picture of Mt. Kilimanjaro just behind our Village. What an idyllic setting for such a beautiful work for God! Blessing abound!



Praises:

- We have a dedicated team of national workers.
- In less than two months our newest teammates, Phil and Sarah Nichols and their two daughters, will join us here in Tanzania.
- For all of the generous people who continue to support my ministry through financial donations and prayers.

Please pray for:

- Godly, qualified national workers to assist us in Rafiki's work.
- Many of you to become involved in Rafiki's work by coming to Africa as a MiniMissionary (short-term: from two weeks to one year).
- Wisdom, patience, gentleness, and a sense of humor as I undertake to teach these seventeen beautiful children this year.
- More sponsors for the children. Rafiki would like to have several sponsors for each child. You can sponsor a child for as little as \$25 a month. Full sponsorship is \$200 per child per month.

Serving Him in Tanzania,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JoAnn".

JoAnn

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ROS # 152

NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information about your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.