



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*“And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2).*

Dear Family and Friends,

Spring is in the air! Most of you may be facing winter, but here in the southern hemisphere, November means sun, flowers, gardens, birds, and butterflies. The lavender blossoms of huge jacaranda trees splash the many hillsides of Tana with fragrance and beauty. Even the humblest hut looks beautiful nestled under one of these spectacular trees. No cold nose and feet at night any more. My vegetable garden is flourishing and my yard is aflame with flowers. Ah, God is truly good!

Rafiki News

At the Rafiki Center we're starting a new semester. The curriculum for the first group of girls includes computers, art, and English III. The second group of girls is studying health and hygiene, music, and English II. I'm teaching the art class and English III – a perfect combination for me. As we study elements of color and design, we also look at the needlework we do in the afternoons and apply the principles to our practical work. I've noticed an increased enthusiasm for doing the needlework as the girls look upon their work with pride and interest, not as just some mundane, rote task they have to do in the afternoons. It's great fun to see these girls grow and develop as they learn new skills and information.

Yes, the Lord truly has given me a life of love, and I can witness that love daily in the faces and lives of the twelve precious girls at the center.



Bible Study Fellowship News

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) began in September. Over 500 Malagasy people attend the women's day, women's evening, and men's evening classes. And that doesn't count the children who attend with their parents. I'm part of the women's evening class, being trained as a children's leader. We have students from age six through high school learning the same Bible lessons and principles their mothers are learning. It's amazing to see a young Malagasy child who is struggling to read, write, answer, and listen to Bible lessons in English—their third language (Malagasy is first, French second).

But they come, they do their lessons, they respond, and they grasp the lessons. Below Sersona and Nampoina answer their questions during the discussion period.

Other Ministry News



Another amazing ministry the Lord has led me to is the WorldView Kids program, or as I call it, the Saturday Morning Bible Club. Cathy Ravoahangy, an influential Malagasy lady I met shortly after coming to Madagascar, has reached out to the many underprivileged children in her neighborhood. Four years ago she started a Bible study at her house with twenty children. Now over 600 children ages two to eighteen show up at the empty lot beside her house! After the opening story and singing, the children are dispersed to their various classes set up in tents wherever there's a flat place on the huge hill below Cathy's house. I'm teaching the teenagers using some of Rafiki's Bible materials. Since my Malagasy is *kelikeli* (very little), I teach the class in English. Sometimes Cathy translates, other times we just muddle along. All of the kids have had some English in school.

The program is sponsored by WorldView International out of Olmsted Falls, Ohio. Worldview International is also sponsoring some of the children, paying their school fees. Everywhere I look, I find private programs like this, large and small, where the more privileged Malagasy are giving back to their own people, showing the Lord's love.

Even after being here in Madagascar for almost half a year, I am still amazed that the Lord has led me to this life of love and service in Him. **Your prayers for these children and teenagers, that they would be truly changed by the love of Christ, are vitally needed.** Madagascar is one of the poorest countries on the face of this earth. But the love of Christ is alive and well in the hearts of many of Madagascar's people. They truly thirst for the Word of our Lord.

In Christ's love,

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

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