



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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September 2009

*“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. . . Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing for joy” (Psalm 98: 4a, 8).*



Greetings from incredible Tanzania!

Nestled at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Rafiki Village Tanzania is surrounded by the awesomeness of God’s mighty creation. Even when the illusive Mt. Kili is enshrouded in clouds, the golden maize fields just outside our bougainvillea-covered fence provide a picturesque setting. And birds, both large and small, abound, adding to the sanctuary-like feeling of our special world.

But as beautiful as God’s creation is here, it can’t compare to the laughter and songs of joy spilling out from our twelve resident children as they play and walk in the evenings with MiniMissionaries, permeating our Village with God’s love. Yes, there are only twelve children right now, but we’re about to experience a population explosion of six more children whose applications are in the works. However, we need more qualified national candidates for Mothers and Mother’s assistants to care for these precious little ones that God is entrusting to Rafiki—a major prayer request that we ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) pray for regularly.

## **Fun-filled Mornings**

One of my biggest pleasures of the day is the three hours I spend in the morning as the teacher for the four-year-old class. The six oldest children are in my class. Besides learning our letters and numbers; how to walk in an orderly line; and sit and listen quietly to a Bible story, we are expanding our horizons by

having mini-field trips, both inside our Rafiki Village and into the nearby town of Moshi. Our unit on Community Helpers took us to the post office to mail a letter to Tori Evans, the ROS child who recently returned to the U.S. with her parents; to a grocery store to meet the grocer and see where some of the Rafiki supplies are purchased; and to the open market filled with fruits and vegetables and many other wares. Finally we ended up at the Uhuru Guest House for chapatis (flat bread) and juice. Quite the adventure! The next day, the burning question several children had was where we were going on our NEXT field trip!



FRIENDLY GROCER MICHAEL PRESENTED ALL THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR OWN PACKAGE OF BISCUITS.



MISS DEB (VILLAGE DIRECTOR DEB NEDERHOED) HELPS THE CHILDREN BUY A POSTAGE STAMP SO THEY CAN MAIL THEIR LETTER.



WOW! HERE WE ARE IN A REAL RESTAURANT! MINIMISSIONARY CAROL GRIX AND TEACHER LWISE MASAWÉ ALSO ACCOMPANIED US ON OUR ADVENTURE.

### Rewarding Afternoons

My afternoons are just as fulfilling and rewarding. We have sixteen girls who are attending the Rafiki JSS (Junior Secondary School). They are preparing to take the national exams in October. For the first month after I arrived, I taught English and supervised the skill-training program. For the last couple of weeks, biology has also been added to my list of classes. BIOLOGY! For an English major? But yes, God gives us all sorts of challenges—and then sits back and smiles as He enables us to do His will. Even so, it is a stretch, but who ever said life on the mission field was cushy? The skill training here is doing banana fiber crafts. Many of the girls make their own banana fiber cards at home to help meet their living expenses. So they are practically applying what they have learned during their skill training hours.



SOME OF THE JSS GIRLS BID FAREWELL TO MINIMISSIONARIES BY SINGING HYMNS FOR THEM.

So my days are full to overflowing, settling into the new duties for me here. Since I've been here, we've had several MiniMissionaries who have greatly assisted us in a variety of ways. A MiniMissionary can serve from two weeks to two years. Why don't you contact the Home Office, attend a mission training, and come be a part of this great work for God. One special need is for someone who could teach math and biology (yes, I know God will enable me, but I'm still praying for a more qualified teacher) at the JSS in 2010. So any of you retired teachers who could come for several months to a year, you would be a blessing—and greatly blessed by the experience.

I consider it all joy to be here in this place at this time.

### Praises

- New children will soon be a part of our Rafiki tribe.
- A new playground is under construction for the resident children.
- We have funding for a new school building and construction will soon begin.
- The MiniMissionaries who share their skills and love with us here.
- My work permit is in hand, and just yesterday my household shipment arrived from Uganda.
- So many of my faithful friends and family have given sacrificially to my support so I can be here in Tanzania.

### Prayer Requests

- Qualified applicants for Rafiki Mothers, mothers' assistants, and national teachers
- A long-term MiniMissionary to teach math and biology at the JSS level
- More MiniMissionaries to experience God's love in Tanzania.
- Full funding for current people who are raising funds to become ROS.
- 100% funding for me—both pledges and cash donations.

Continuing in God's service,

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