



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:19 -21).

Dear Family and Friends,

The verse above is the Scripture that was read at Accra Chapel on my first Sunday in Ghana, almost four years ago in September. Do you ever get a sense that “this is something I should hold on to?” I have kept the notes from that morning always feeling they had very significant meaning for me while here in Ghana.

Today—the Rafiki Children’s Center School-Ghana

I’ve been looking forward to writing to all of you this time. Mostly to tell you about something the children have been studying in school. I was teaching language arts to the primary students in the mornings and taught a segment on “A Person of Character.” The students learned that a person of character knows the difference between right and wrong and always tries to do what is right:

- Is someone to look up to and admire
- Sets a good example for everyone
- Makes the world a better place
- Lives according to the “Six Pillars of Character”: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship

As we finished the school year in June, we reviewed the study. I asked the students to name someone in the Bible, in addition to Jesus, who displayed the qualities they had learned. Here are some of the people they thought of:

- Trustworthiness—Jonathan, David
- Respect—Samuel
- Responsibility—Moses, Joshua, Noah
- Fairness—Abraham
- Caring—Esther, (my Aunt Minnie!)
- Citizenship—Noah

When I asked them to explain their answers, Eric was quick to say that Noah, a good citizen, saved all the animals from the floods. Abigail explained how Esther cared about her people when she approached the king on their behalf. They said Abraham was very fair because he allowed his nephew Lot to choose the land he wanted first. Then Abraham took his share. Akolgo said that Moses was very responsible in leading Israel out of Egypt even when he was reluctant to take up the work God asked him to do. Akalukri was quick to nominate Jonathan for trustworthiness because of his friendship and loyalty to David. Atarebono thought of Samuel as one who respected the authority of the Lord. It was wonderful to realize all they learned and how much they knew from the Bible, too.

You may have noticed and are wondering why my Aunt Minnie’s name is up there next to caring. I had trouble understanding Eric when he mentioned her during our review. I was expecting to recognize names I had heard from the Bible. Eric mentioned “Aunt Minnie” because while teaching the segment on caring, I was directed by the curriculum to tell the students about someone I know personally who is very caring. I told them all about my Aunt Minnie and her love for me all the years I was growing up and even as an adult. (Many of you have prayed for Aunt Minnie as she lived the last days of her life with cancer.)

During the review when I asked the students for an example of a caring person in the Bible, Eric kept saying her name. I thought I wasn’t hearing him and asked him to speak up. And all the children, in exasperation with an adult, said “AUNT MINNIE!” I was really touched that he remembered all that I had told them about her.

Thank you for your prayers for the *Rafiki* Children's Center School and also for my family and for Aunt Minnie's comfort.

Tomorrow – *Rafiki* Girls' Center, Mzuzu, Malawi

Yes, the latest development for me is a move to the country of Malawi. Some of you have already heard about this through my e-mail prayer letter and have asked about Malawi. Malawi, established in 1891 and called Nyasaland by the British protectorate, became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. Its population is just over ten million. It is located in Southern Africa, east of Zambia. Its climate is sub-tropical like Ghana, but they tell me it can get down to 37 degrees Fahrenheit at night in the coldest part of the year. Mzuzu, where I will live, is at 4,000 feet elevation along the Rift Valley, making the temperatures there much different than sea level in Ghana.

Another family, the Writebols, and I will join the Kochs and the Hudsons, who are already in Malawi. I will be working in a *Rafiki* Girls' Center. It is a vocational training center for teenage girls. In addition to the girls' center, *Rafiki* is planning to create the *Rafiki* Village-Malawi. I believe that the mayor of Mzuzu has donated 120 acres. That is about all I know about Malawi until I move there on August 31st.

November/December of 2003 – U.S.A.

I'm coming home for the holidays!! I can't wait. I'm excited about seeing my godchild, Annika, for the first time.

Coffees/Informational Meetings

It will be wonderful to see as many of you as possible while I am at home since I really haven't done these meetings since my first return in November of 2000. I'd love to come and tell you more about the opportunities to serve with *Rafiki* and update you on the developments at the *Rafiki* Village – Ghana and *Rafiki* in Malawi.

My hope is to do many informational presentations to interested groups in California, Portland, Minnesota, and Arizona. Candy Hall will help me arrange the actual dates and times. She can be reached at randchall@aol.com.

As you continue to pray for us, please pray for:

- My cat, Whiskers, (yes, she is still with me) to make it safely to Malawi
- My belongings to arrive in Malawi safely and economically
- My goodbyes in Ghana to honor the Lord
- Safe travel to and within Malawi
- Please join me in thanking God for the team I worked with in Ghana, and for the team in Malawi that is already there doing so much to prepare for my arrival.
- And please pray for my adjustments to a new home.

Many of you have been on this journey since March of 1999. You have seen the *Rafiki* Children's Center in Ghana become a reality from the ground up. If you would like to continue praying for Ghana after I leave, I know the Home Office can ensure you will receive the prayer requests. I'd be happy to make that connection for you. Thank you for your continued love and support.

I look forward to seeing you at the end of the year.

With love in Christ,



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