



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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December 2006

"I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Dear Friends and Family,

We have such a good God! In the verse above, Paul assures us that with God nothing will be done halfway. That promise means a great deal right now because the Rafiki Home Office has just sent word that my funding for the next two years is only at forty-eight percent. God continues to call you and me in various ways to be a part of the work He is doing in Africa for the children who have no one.

Debbie Needham of Malawi just sent these pictures and stories about two of the children in Malawi.

These are two of our youngest children. As with all young children, there are many moments that make you smile. First, there is Austin. We just call him Eeyore (the donkey from Winnie the Pooh). His Rafiki Mother says he is fond of crying—who in the world but Austin could be fond of crying. His name for me is *adam Debbie*. It has to make you smile. His brother, Alex, is also in the three-year-old class.



AUSTIN



ALEX

Alex is one of those children who is just not real interested in school most of the time. He is, however, picking up English rather fast, especially in music. Today, as he was at the book center, he was singing, "Please and thank you, please and thank you, sound so nice, sound so nice, sound so nice, sound so nice. . ." that was all he knew of the song and he sounded like a broken record singing that last phrase over and over but perfectly on pitch. Though they are not yet the ideal students, it is mind boggling to think where these little guys would be or what they would be doing if God had not chosen them to come to Rafiki. They are lives redeemed.



TARRY AND I

Just as God continues to work in the lives of these children He also works in mine. I told you in my last newsletter that God is doing many new things. The man pictured above, Tarry Nelson, is the newest thing God is doing in my life.

Tarry and I are engaged to be married on December 30, 2006. He is a man who loves God. And, he feels that God is calling him to the mission field, too. Many of you met Tarry in November as we toured Northern California. We saw about 200 people in Portland, Seattle, and many California cities and told you all about Rafiki's new Education Program which now includes Senior Secondary School, or free high school education for young people.

Tarry and I thank all of you for your warm welcome to both of us. Each time, as we drove away from a home or a church, Tarry commented on how special the people are who are drawn to be a part of this work. He was impressed by the true concern each of you expressed for our funding. We can't thank you enough for your loving ways, encouraging words, and appreciation for what God is accomplishing in 426 young lives each day at our Rafiki Villages.

While Tarry and I wait for our funding to be complete, we will be living in the mountains above Santa Barbara in California. We will live on the site of a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center called Rancho La Scherpa. Tarry is working to refurbish and reopen the

main camp and host groups in the Conference Center. (Sounds like great preparation for work at a Rafiki Village to me!) We are trusting God to help us accomplish both the completion of the camp and our funding for Rafiki in 2007. By His grace, He will find a place for us on the mission field in 2008.

As you pray with us and Rafiki please pray for the following:

- That God would complete our funding in 2007, now at 48%.
- That God would shape and complete the transition year in each Rafiki Village for the girls and boys who will be transitioning to academics in Secondary School.
- That construction would be completed in the Rafiki Training and Satellite Villages still being built.
- That cottages at the operating Villages would be completely filled in God's time with the mothers and children He has picked to live there.

We'll be back in the Bay Area in January:

Jan. 20 9 A.M. Concord, California
Phone: 925-682-4663
www.HelenPrimus.com

Jan 21 10:30 A.M., Oakland, California
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church

We pray that this Christmas will be a season completely filled with the love of God for you and your family.

With love in Christ,

Charmaine Fiumos and Tarry Nelson

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