



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4040 • 210-244-2600 • www.rafiki-foundation.org

June 2005

Greetings from Mzuzu!

Comparing Experiences

A little while ago I met a man from Holland. He is on vacation for two years! He started in Egypt traveling through Africa making his way to Cape Town in South Africa. He told me that many people he met, working in Africa, were discouraged because they didn't see their work making a difference. He wanted to know if I felt the same. I didn't have to think long about this. I told him this wasn't true for me, especially working in the Rafiki Girls' Center. I told him how girls come in, afraid to speak English, who are barely able to ask for the salt at lunch. Then in two years time they are acting out dramas like the Gospel story "Harmony of the Gospels" in English. Yes, I see this work making a difference!

Not long after that, I was talking to another missionary here in Mzuzu. He wanted to know if the students at school really opened up and shared real prayer requests or if everything was just on the surface level. I wasn't sure how to answer him. I guess I had taken our prayer time for granted at the RGC. I have taken note of some of the prayer requests the girls give in the morning. As you read them you will agree with me that the girls have shared their real concerns, trusting them to be answered by God.

Here are a few of the prayer requests:

Student 1 asked God to provide what was necessary for her upcoming journey.

Student 2 asked for journey mercies to observe the anniversary of the death of her father. We prayed through all the details of this event over time, especially the participation of her brother. She wasn't certain he would pull away from the army barracks to participate.

Student 3 asked for prayer to hear about her Mom's health. She was waiting for a message from the village.

Student 4 prayed with us for her friend who needed to find money for school fees.

Student 5 prayed with us for her for spiritual strength.

Student 6 asked us to prayer for healing.

Another day, prayer requests went like this:

Student 1 asked us to pray for peace in her home.

Student 2 gave thanks for all things.

Student 3 asked for protection.

Student 4 asked for forgiveness and understanding, between herself and God, and herself and those around her.

I think you would agree that these girls are bringing their real concerns to the Lord in prayer. Thank you for the many ways you support this ministry in prayer. We can be grateful along with these girls that we have a prayer answering God.

Dedication

Speaking of answering prayers, I know you are wondering how the dedication of the Rafiki Village went and what the progress is for moving to the new site. It is now one year since construction began, and all the buildings are nearing completion. Although they were not finished in time for the dedication, it was a wonderful day, all to the glory of the Lord. Many people were in attendance along with the Minister of Social Welfare/Gender. For full coverage of the event go to the Rafiki web site at www.rafiki-foundation.org. Great pictures of the leadership and girls are on the web page story.

Satellite Villages in Malawi

No, we are not sending up satellites to orbit the earth over Malawi! We are keeping our feet firmly planted on the ground and walking in faith, one step at a time.

This is the name of the project Rafiki has asked me to manage for now. We are working with the Presbyterian Church to recreate Rafiki Villages, ten of them, across the country. The plan is to make this first Village, the one in Mzuzu, a Training Village, and then have the satellites model their work according to what they see at the Training Village. The Rafiki Satellite Villages will be operated and managed by Malawians.

For now, this means seeking out land and surveys, securing the land, and developing guidelines for the future operation of the satellite villages. Rafiki has found a very able Malawian, Mrs. Bertha Ng'oma to lead this effort along with the Presbyterian Church called the Synod of Livingstonia. Yes, we're referring to *the* David Livingstone. So you can see the Synod has a long, far-reaching history in the area and a solid future to support such an effort.

Here is a photo of Bertha and the Assistant General Secretary from the synod. The son of the chief is along with them as they walk the property for the first Satellite Village.



This is a photo of me and the Traditional Authority, Chief Kalaluma. He is the man donating the forty-three acres to the church where we can build the initial Satellite Village.

It has been a privilege to know this man. He almost doubled the size of the land after visiting the Training Village in Mzuzu. He knows a good thing when he sees it. You can see he is advanced in years. He is interested in improving the conditions of his community. He is also ensuring a hospital is being built in the same area for his people.

Prayer Requests:

- The completion of phase one in Mzuzu
- God to sustain the orphans we are finding in the villages who are living in less than desirable conditions
- For the leaders of the Synod to make good decisions and act wisely in their support of the Rafiki Satellite Village Project
- My upcoming Sabbatical with Rafiki—clear direction and timing
- Praise for the University graduation of my twenty-two-year-old niece Tanya!

With love in Christ,

Charmaine Fiumos
P.O. Box 1018
Mzuzu, Malawi
AFRICA

E-mail: cfiumos@yahoo.com