



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Dear Family and Friends,

As I look back at my last newsletter of 2005, I see that so much has changed.

- With thanksgiving I report that my broken foot is healed!
- The newest girls at the Rafiki Girls' Center Malawi have learned to sew and gained much confidence in their ability to carve.
- Five young women will graduate this month. Three years! They made it!
- Vicky and I have left the girls' center in the able hands of Barb Guthrie.
- The Rafiki Satellite project in Malawi has been put on "hold" until children come to live and stay in the Rafiki Village Malawi.
- The Kochs now serve in Zambia.
- I am on sabbatical in Southern California.

*Please pray for the team that remains in Malawi; that God will keep them safe, healthy, and strong.*

## **First Stop – Ghana, Jan. 27th**

After leaving Malawi, I arrived in Ghana and stayed for one week. I thank God for wonderful reunions in Accra and the Rafiki Village Ghana. I was blessed with a central place to stay, a visit to my home church in Ghana, and a chance to visit with Cathy Carney as well.

It was wonderful to be reunited with the children at the Rafiki Children's Center Ghana. It was particularly special to be with the eleven children who first came to the children's center in 2001. We have a bond with each other that was evident to me. It is a wonderful feeling to receive a hug from a child, but even more special when they hug you and don't let go!

The five oldest children are taking Spanish, French, and English lessons at their new school. Eric says his favorite class is Spanish. It is exciting to imagine what God is preparing him for in the future. And it was wonderful to see how the children have grown and are flourishing there. Ishmael, who was one of the first boys to come to Rafiki Village Ghana,

loves the Lord and loves hearing Bible stories the best.

## **Next Stop – Los Angeles, California, Feb. 4th**



My first week in the States was also a time of reunion. I stayed with a good friend, Leslie, and her husband Larry Clark. We've been celebrating birthdays, taking long walks, and enjoying just being together again. It's also great because I get to babysit and be with the girls: Brittany, Kathryn, and Lindsey Clark. And here's the surprise bonus, they have kept my cat here in Los Angeles, so we can be together at times.

## **Next – Glendora, California, Feb. 13th** Home sweet home, for now.



This is my father, John Fiumos, and his wife, Connie Roberts. They were both wonderful to create a home for me here. Wow! I walked into a home with a bed already made up with sheets, and cupboards filled with towels and kitchen gear. My long time friend, Terri, has

provided the living room furniture, so settling in has been easy. As I said before, the only requirement has been to unpack my boxes and fill up the fridge! What a blessing it is to feel so welcome.

### **Next – Fresno, California, President’s Day Weekend**

The task: unpack and dig out from six years of storage. The biggest question on my mind was, “just what is so important to keep in storage for six years?” The answer: not much.



This is my cousin Carolyn and her family. Jerry, her husband, helped me unpack and give away a truck full of household goods which, hopefully, will be more useful to someone making a new home these days.

Since then I’ve been settling in, finding good walking paths, and discovering the newest offerings at the grocery store. It really is amazing how much is now offered for the sake of convenience. Life in America is “Life in the fast lane.” The quicker and more effective something can be, the better.

Our God is an amazing God who can be effective and quick in His own time, allowing so many changes by His sovereignty. It is only God who can make all of this possible for me. I have even been offered a car for the year, for FREE!

### **Next stop will be – Clayton, California, March 6th**

I’ll pick up the car from the Judd Family. God has been generous with them and they in turn are being generous with me.

### **After That....**

After picking up the car, I’ll be returning to Glendora to prepare for a trip to Israel and Turkey. I thank God for the opportunity to go to Galilee, Jerusalem, and the sites of the seven churches of Revelation. I look forward to listening and learning while hiking five to seven miles each day.

Recently a good friend wrote to me and said, “I know you are unsure of what this time holds for you – I see it as a refilling, learning, and fellowship time.” I am so grateful for her words of affirmation and assurance. Thanks, Linda, for your love and encouragement!

As you continue to be a part of my life and the work God is doing through Rafiki, please pray for:

- Rafiki Overseas Staff and national staff on the field. Pray they would be provided with exactly what they need to fulfill God’s work through them.
- The arrival of Malawian children at the Rafiki Children’s Center Malawi.
- A safe journey to the Middle East and back again for me.

With love in Christ,

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