



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Greetings!

The holidays are upon us. While perhaps it looks like winter and Christmas in North America, it has been warming up in this hemisphere! We are seeing small rains, but this is the warmest time of the year for Malawi. Nevertheless, we are remembering that the end of October marks the beginning of the Christmas season countdown. We even enjoyed Christmas music at our team meeting the other night!

The tune for the "Twelve Days of Christmas" comes to mind as I try to relay to you my latest adventure in experiencing God's unending provision. You see I broke my foot three weeks ago. I was hoping it wasn't true, but after x-rays confirmed a break (can you imagine – it's possible to get an x-ray even in the countryside of the third poorest nation in the world?). I was blessed with teammate, Barb Guthrie, who has a lifetime of experience in proper casting. Every need: meals, transport, etc., has been provided and inspired the following version of the

Twelve Days of Christmas:

- 12 – get well roses;
- 11 – meals delivered;
- 10 – good friends helping;
- 9 - youth members calling;
- 8 - church members visiting;
- 7 - teammates assisting;
- 6 - weeks of waiting;
- 5 - medical professionals!
- 4 – legs, counting crutches;
- 3 - new jobs for Mama (cook, nurse, hostess);
- 2 - assistant teachers (to write on the board)

And

- 1 – broken foot in a cast!



And if you are asking, "How did she break it?" It gets better. I was jumping off a tombstone while taking pictures for a family at a ceremony to unveil two family tombstones. They had saved for three years for these tombstones. I was doing my best to capture important moments without being a disruption. As I came down from the tombstone and put all my weight on my right foot, I felt the fracture. I couldn't walk. Thankfully three pastors had driven to the gravesite, saving me the half-hour walk back to the Village before returning to Mzuzu by car. Now, I ride comfortably in the back seat of my truck as Brown Nyondo, a driver, assists me each day. God has shown me that every need is provided for each day.



I am counting down to Thanksgiving because the cast is supposed to come off that week. I hope to be especially thankful at that time for the healing of my foot!

Rafiki Girls' Center

So much has happened since my last newsletter. Four girls graduated and ten new students have joined the Rafiki Girls' Center. This brings the total to twenty-one. I am teaching English to the new girls as well as the health class.



My days in carving are non-existent for now; but, I am so happy when the girls show me a sample of their first efforts to carve a key holder. Mr. Bob, the artist, tells me that many of them have real artistic abilities, but they just need to be patient. Carving too fast causes a piece to break. Each carving takes an average of eight days to complete. It is a "heart-break" to work on a piece for seven days and break it on the eighth! They are trying and gaining confidence in their newly acquired skill. You can add Vicky Koch to your prayers as she is teaching all ten of them to sew—on treadle machines, no less!

Rafiki Satellite Village

Our prayers for this project are being answered with yes's. The Church Advisory Committee has completed their work in policy making. The building plans have all been completed. Chris Moyer, the architect, traveled with the Home Office last month and hand delivered them. After surveying the site, he is adjusting the site plan. As we await the site plan, Bertha and I are interviewing contractors to bid on the building project. Rafiki is seeking three bids for the work and the Home Office will make the final decision to award the job to a contractor. God continues to open the way for this new project. It is a wonderful confirmation that it is one small part of God's plan to provide for the needs of this country and create Christian leadership for Malawi's future. We are so thankful.

As you gather with your family and share the Thanksgiving meal, please offer prayers of thanks along with us for:

- All God continues to provide in Malawi.
- Young girls with a desire to learn new skills.
- The opportunity to impact their lives in a way that gives them knowledge of a relationship with God through Christ.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom for Bertha and me as we invite three contractors to submit bids for the Satellite Village.
- Contractors to complete their bids.
- The children to arrive at the Rafiki Village in Malawi.
- Honest provision of food for this country which is experiencing a food shortage.
- The healing of MY RIGHT FOOT!

Thank you for your love and prayers as I prepare to begin my year long sabbatical in January of 2006.

With love in Christ,

Charmaine Fiumos

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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.