



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). “

Thank you Father for the wonder of your love and for the heart you gave Jesus. Make my heart like yours today, because of Jesus. Amen”- (a prayer from Daily Texts 2003).

Dear Family and Friends,

Experiencing God’s Love

God’s love and the heart of Jesus are what I experience every day here in Mzuzu, Malawi. His love is shared in so many ways. Sometimes it’s as simple as the warm greeting I receive from my friend Vicky Koch at the Rafiki Girls’ Center each morning. Or it can be as complicated as saving all four years of pictures and files on my failing computer. I am thankful for Mike Koch’s help and that I did not lose everything.

I have also experienced God’s love through the Hudson family. Pauline saw to every detail of my comfort in their home (from a personal hot water kettle for my room to clean clothes, and even dry cat food for my cat). For a month she made sure I had all that I needed. They made sure that I met every missionary family in Mzuzu by having dinner guests over while I stayed with them. Their generosity was capped off by allowing me to use their computer and phone as I needed. My teammates in Ghana prayed for all my needs to be met in this time of transition and God has answered abundantly through the Hudsons and their daughters.

Rafiki Girls’ Center-Mzuzu

Our days are full at the Rafiki Girls’ Center. The day includes a devotion focused on God’s attributes, health, English, art, computers, music, and sewing classes. Yet it is the love at the RGC that I want to tell you about.

Nancy Writebol, the center’s nutrition specialist (cook), greets these teenage girls with a warm hug each morning. When Nancy and her husband David returned from two weeks in Zambia the girls were so happy to see Nancy and receive yet another hug.

The First Day of Third Semester

October 1st, the first day of the third semester, brought seven new girls to the school. We were all nervous in some way (my first day to teach – their first day to attend). The seven new girls had that quiet fear in their eyes. Even as the week has progressed they are still unsure at times if they can really be themselves. A new language and a school taught by white people can be very overwhelming. Something as simple as asking for the salt at the lunch table, in English, can be a delightful moment for one of these girls. Fiskani’s smile was a mile wide when she said out loud, “Pass salt please.”

We started the first day with no electricity, but kept on going by candlelight. Pauline Hudson led our morning devotion about God’s accessible ways. As she asked the girls to each read a verse she never corrected the reading errors of these new girls. She graciously moved onto the next girl until someone read the part she intended to be read. Out of love Pauline affirmed whatever contribution these new girls were able to make on their first day. After the devotion the new girls stayed behind rather than moving to their first class. When Vicky realized they weren’t following her she gently returned and led them to their classroom for English.

It was during lunch that I saw one of the experienced students, Dingase, reach out and take care of the three new students at our table. We had chicken noodle soup for lunch that day. While this is a very familiar dish to us Americans, these three new girls told us it was their first time to have chicken noodle soup. Dingase saw they weren’t eating and encouraged the girls to take the three leftover bread rolls on the table. You see there were seven of us and only three rolls left. Dingase made sure they felt

comfortable to take the second helping of bread since they had quickly eaten their first rolls. She made sure they wouldn't be hungry with four more hours left in the school day.

As the girls finished the day I could see smiles on their faces. The fear had diminished and was replaced by songs and laughter. We all laughed while a couple of girls in their second semester, who are now in Music, shared their rap version of John 3:16. This ease and comfort comes from feeling loved. We learn to love by knowing God's love for us and seeing Jesus' life as an example of how to live.

Experiencing Love from Supporters

You have all shown great love for me these past four years in West Africa and now in Southern Africa—Malawi. Your prayers see me through many a situation. Your e-mails encourage me to know I am not alone in this journey. Some of you have been so faithful to keep my post box full of mail. Mail is always an added bonus to any day. Your financial support is a very tangible show of your love for God, me, and this mission of mercy through Rafiki. It has made it possible for me to live and work and love those around me in Ghana and now Malawi. Thank you for your generous spirit in so many ways.

I would love to share even more of what God is doing here in Malawi. I also have pictures of 44 children now living and schooling in the Rafiki Village Ghana. I will be doing the following presentations in California, Minnesota, and Arizona and would love to see you and share so much more.

I plan to be in Southern California from December 15 to 17, and Dec 27 to Dec. 30th. So there is a possibility that there will be other informational meetings there, Redwood City, Vacaville, California, and also Beaverton, Oregon. As I send out prayer updates I will include more information. As of October 6th, these are the meetings planned.

Schedule of Informational Meetings:

Nov. 12th Clayton CA
Contact: Keli Judd, kljudd@pacbell.net

Nov. 13th Tracy CA
Contact: Suzanne & Charles Carrigan,
carrigan4@sbcglobal.net, 209-834-8141

Nov. 14-16th Santa Rosa CA
Contact: Candy Hall, cshall4@sonic.net
Santa Rosa Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Nov. 17th Pittsburg CA
Contact: Carolyn Byrne, carolynbyrne@juno.com

Nov. 23rd Oakland CA
Contact: Donna Erickson, dse12348@comcast.net
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church, Oakland

Nov. 24-26th Applie Valley MN
Contact: Marge Johnson, (952)454-6035

Dec. 1-3rd Fresno CA
Contact: Leslie Julian, grmmyz@aol.com

Dec. 4th Santa Barbara CA.
Contact: Astrid Guenthart,
astridguenthart@yahoo.com

Dec. 13-14th Gilbert AZ
Contact: Stefanie & Robert Jamison,
stefanieanne@att.net

Please call or e-mail for exact places and to confirm times. Candy Hall, in California, has been so generous to arrange all these meetings. Candy, your love for God and what He is doing through Rafiki is evident in your efforts to put all these details in place. As they say in Ghana, I thank God for your life.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon. It will be wonderful to share even more about how I have experienced God's love when we meet.

With love in Christ,



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