



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“O great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds” (Jeremiah 32:18-19).

Dear Friends and Family,

Progress! We have news of progress to share. We have good news about the refurbishing of Rancho La Sherpa, the Presbyterian Christian Camp and Conference Center (PCCCI) where we live. There is also progress in the development of the Rafiki Villages across Africa, especially the Rafiki Village Liberia. And we have progress in the total amount of support pledged to make it possible for us to serve with Rafiki in Africa.

Rancho La Scherpa

As of 3:00 P.M. Friday July 27, 2007, Rancho La Sherpa was officially re-opened. It was at this very moment that the county issued the health permit allowing the camp to proceed with their permission. It was such “a God thing,” we want to share the story.

Just a week before, Tarry was informed that the camp must complete a full permitting process rather than operate under any previous permits issued as was understood. He had one week to meet all requirements of the current standards and needed the help of at least nine others to meet the county’s requirements, as well as the requirements of the state fire marshal.

With the help of Rick, the PCCCI Executive Director, an appointment was made at the county health department to see the inspector assigned to the camp. Upon Rick’s arrival at the office, the inspector was no longer available and another official was assigned to inspect the camp. Because the second official, Dana, had a cancellation in her schedule, she was available to inspect the camp that day.

Dana is also a member of the local Presbyterian Church in Santa Ynez. She is very aware of the mission of the camp and its possibilities for God’s kingdom work. With her involvement the tasks required for permitting seemed possible to accomplish. That night a team of eleven assembled, agreed to the priorities, and made a plan. Beginning the next morning the team worked for thirty-six hours to prepare for the final inspection by the Health Department on Friday (200+ campers were scheduled to arrive on Sunday). And as we said, the

permits were granted! Rancho La Sherpa is officially open!! Thanks be to God!

Part of what made this all possible is the many volunteer hours given to Rancho La Scherpa. You may recognize these three volunteers, just a few of the many people who came to help with the refurbishing of the camp.



CHUCK, HANK, AND KELI JUDD

With this work completed we are one step closer to serving with Rafiki in Africa.

Rafiki Village Liberia

Last month we received word that our assignment with Rafiki is Liberia, in West Africa. Consequently, we are in communication with the Liberia team and are following the progress of the Village.

Last week the Rafiki Village Liberia was dedicated to serve the Lord. The dedication was even attended by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the President of Liberia. Joanne Colvin, one of the team members, sent this word and made these pictures available.

“We thank and praise God for bringing about 100 guests, including the President of Liberia on a very rainy, muddy day. Our Rafiki Home Office staff is greatly encouraged by the construction work on the buildings. In addition, we are all encouraged and thankful to have received our official government Certificate to operate an orphanage in Liberia. Thank you for your prayers!”



A RAINY DAY FOR A DEDICATION



PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO OPERATE

This is incredible progress! The presentation of the certificate makes it possible for the Village in Liberia to receive and raise children. In the past this has been an obstacle in other Rafiki locations and delayed those Villages' ability to operate. We thank God for His mighty deeds!

Support for the Nelsons

In our last newsletter we reported being 77% funded. Today that number is up to 82%. We thank God for all of you who have agreed to join us financially and prayerfully as we make plans to serve God together in Africa. We hope to leave for Liberia in January 2008.

Prayer Requests

- For the full financial support needed to allow us to serve on the field; that opportunities are scheduled to present Rafiki.
- For the logistics of our preparation to leave: packing and additional training required, if any, to serve with Rafiki.
- For health and safety of the team in Liberia as they prepare to receive children.
- For safety at Rancho La Scherpa as groups of 200+ people arrive and stay for the weekly camps through September.

We thank God for your lives as you continue with us on this journey.

With love in Christ,

Tarry & Charmaine Nelson

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