



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)” (Matthew 1:23).

On this first Sunday of Advent we read the Scripture above and begin to reflect on what Christmas is all about: Jesus came to earth and was called Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” As we celebrate Advent in Liberia with the Rafiki children and their families, we are reminded that God is with us every step of the way.

Monthly Foot Steps:

In August we felt God walk along side us as we went in search of new Rafiki Mothers and Assistant Mothers. It was a discouraging time as it seemed we could not find women with the qualifications and desire for the actual work. But God, the provider, brought Luvenia, Leona, and Lucy to help take care of the Rafiki children. They are each women who love the Lord and want to study the Bible to understand His Word.

September brought a time of exploration of Liberia. Tarry took the kids on field trips in a unit called “My Country.” They toured the international airport, a local rice farm, the national museum, and visited “Mama Africa,” a local woman who promotes African dance and drumming. God, the protector was with us as each adventure ended with a safe return home.



KEBAH PLANTING RICE

The month of October included a break for two weeks from school and we led the Village GAMES weeks. GAMES stands for Games, Art, Music, Enrichment, and Sports. The art included making decorations for Christmas, games were outdoor relays, and enrichment included cooking classes and trips to the beach. God, the creator, gave us a beautiful ocean and lagoon very close by. It was fun to play in the water and relax by the ocean.



THE LAGOON

In November we took a Saturday off and went on an adventure. Again we thank God for safety. We drove our truck onto a railway flat car, sat inside our truck on the flatbed, and rode the train to the Bong Mine—an iron ore mine just thirty-five miles inland. The train travels through Liberia passing many villages which the train would stop at during its mid week runs to pick up charcoal and some fruits and vegetables to be transported back to Monrovia for sale in the markets.

Once at the mine the head of security gave us the “grand tour” of the old destroyed buildings and currently operating rock crushing plant. The majority of the mine is being turned to scrap metal because it was blown up and burned by the rebels in the civil war in the mid '90s. We saw the “pits,” now lakes, around the mine area. We both had such mixed emotions; ones of tragedy from the civil war days and one of awe of the beauty of the land and the lakes.



TARRY AND CHAR AT BONG MINE

November also meant "back to school." Each day Tarry trusts that God is with him each step of the way as he teaches the three-year-old class and fills in as substitute with the older class, too. God, the guide, walks along side Tarry as he prepares and teaches the boys each day.

God is with us every day. We see Him in the smiles of the children when they greet Tarry for school in the morning or greet Charmaine during the day. We see God in the faces of each Rafiki Mother as she reflects God's authority in the life of each Rafiki child. We see God in the face of each staff member as they serve the Village in each of their capacities: teacher, cook, cleaner, laundry staff, assistant mother, security guard, or grounds keeper as well as the other ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff).



THE COOKS

Charmaine has a new understanding of God's long suffering and patient character as we continue to wait for the government to bring more children to live among the families at Rafiki. As of now we have eleven children—six girls and five little boys.

Please pray along with us:

- For more children to come and stay.
- For God to be the guide of all the activities of the Village.
- For unity among the entire staff of the Village: Pray that He unites us around the idea of raising up godly contributors for Liberia's future.

Join us in thanking God for sending his son, Jesus, as we celebrate this Christmas and thank Him for joining us as we put one foot in front of the other each day. We appreciate your prayers and financial support of the Rafiki Foundation, our work, and the children.

With love in Christ,

Tarry & Charmaine Nelson

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Merry Christmas from Liberia!