



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4:12 ESV).*

Dear Friends and Family,

February, the season of Valentines Day, is the Season of Love in our American culture and the African culture as well. Hallmark has succeeded at exporting this tradition of giving red hearts to your loved ones to Africa, too! It's a wonderful time to give and receive a letter of love.

As Christians we know a love from God through His son Jesus Christ that is deeper and more genuine than any paper valentine could ever express. And in return we are able, by the Spirit of God, to love others in the way that God has loved us. The Scripture above tells us that if we love one another God's love is made complete (perfected) in us.

Speaking of love, we want to share pictures with you from our wedding day, December 30th, 2006.



EXCHANGING OUR VOWS



WITH THE CANACOO FAMILY FROM GHANA. A FAMILY FROM CHARMAINE'S FELLOWSHIP AT LEGON INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH, GHANA

It was wonderful to be surrounded by our extended families to celebrate our marriage and all that God has done and is doing in our lives.

Tarry says the most memorable part of the day was at the end of our ceremony when we turned around to be introduced as Mr. and Mrs. Tarry Nelson. When we turned around and saw everyone with us it was like looking into the face of God as we felt their love for us.

We both felt the love and assurance of God during the ceremony. And as we exchanged our vows, God confirmed He has brought us together to do ministry for Him. Today that ministry includes a Christian camp and conference center, Rancho La Scherpa, as well as creating a new Christian high school in Santa Barbara, Providence Hall.

In the short time we have been married we have experienced that the combination of these two ministries is amazing. We have seen God use each ministry, to support the other. Those who want to hear about Christian education are also interested in a Christian summer camp for Youth. And the fact that Providence Hall is a high school that will offer a classical Christian education is a wonderful preparation for our future work with Rafiki.

Many of you are receiving this newsletter for the very first time, and may be asking "What is Rafiki?" The Rafiki Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit Christian organization headquartered in Texas that does its ministry in ten countries in Africa. Rafiki has created Villages where children without parents can live, love, learn, and grow up in a Christ-centered environment. Rafiki's goal is to be used by God to raise up these children to be godly contributors in each country.

Since 1999 Rafiki has been building Children's Centers (orphanages) and vocational arts programs in ten African Countries. In that time the Villages in Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, and Malawi have opened to serve over 425 children. The Rafiki Overseas Staff (ROS) and national Christian women and men who teach and nurture these children are showing them God's love everyday.

In Zambia, God is just beginning to show Rafiki the children He intends to raise in that Village. Construction of other Rafiki Villages continues in Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.

Rafiki is currently transitioning all its vocational students into an academic program that will offer a classical Christian education to the youth and children served in Rafiki Villages across Africa. Out of a love for God, forty-four Christian families are serving as missionaries in Africa through Rafiki. We hope to join them in this effort.

We have recently been told that we are 69% funded as a couple to serve through Rafiki. We are praying that God will call additional people to join us in this effort. There are many ways you can be a part of this work.

Here are a few ideas:

Pray daily for our work in Santa Barbara:

- That Tarry will completely refurbish the camp and offer summer time programmed camps for Youth.
- That Charmaine will be effective in promoting Providence Hall to raise money for the school as it opens in the fall.
- That this will be a time for us to be equipped for our future work in a Rafiki Village, managing facilities and offering a classical Christian education to those served through Rafiki.

Perhaps God has enabled you to support us financially. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to join us by contributing to our financial support. We will not be able to go on the field until we are fully funded—only 31% to go!

Please host a coffee for your friends to learn about Rafiki. Tarry and I will be happy to tell you all about it. Come to a coffee on March 25th, at the Clark Home in Pacific Palisades, CA. Contact: Leslie Clark (310) 459-4279.

Perhaps you would be willing to start or join a Rafiki Prayer Group. You will receive the prayer needs of the Villages throughout Africa and be able to pray for them daily.

No matter what God is calling you to do, it will be an expression of your love for Him and your love for those in Africa. Thank you for your love and support.

With love in Christ,



Tarry and Charmaine Nelson

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