



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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May 2007

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace” (Romans 15:13).

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from Santa Barbara! Winter is over and the spring flowers of the Santa Ynez mountains are beginning to bloom. The new deer are out in the open enjoying God’s “smorgasbord of flowers” so much, we can’t seem to keep flowers on the bushes around our home. In addition to the deer, there are other inhabitants on the hill. Meet “Mr. Gopher”



snake. He’s at least five feet long.

TARRY WITH SNAKE

(While there are plenty of snakes in Africa, they are not held quite so comfortably as many are poisonous.)

We experienced the driest winter in California in a many years. In Charmaine’s opinion this is a good thing because she drives down a seven-mile mountain road each day (twenty-five minutes) to get to the freeway and it feels much safer when it’s not raining. However, as the summer approaches, fire season has been officially announced by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Please join us in praying for fire safety this summer. The God of hope gives us joy and peace.

Our Rafiki Update

We have several milestones before we can join Rafiki in the field:

- 100% funding
- Finish refurbishing Rancho La Sherpa’s Main Camp
- Complete Tarry’s training with Rafiki this year.

Funding

We reported in January that we were 70% funded. Today that number has gone up to 77%. We thank God for these resources and for those who give to make our work possible.

Please join us in praying for the 23% remaining. The God of hope continues to give us joy and peace.

Refurbishing Rancho La Scherpa

With the help of 600 volunteer hours all seven buildings have been cleaned. The area around the buildings is cleared of brush and weeds. The final steps are new furniture and restoration of the infrastructure. (Much of the work done by Rafiki Overseas Staff is this same type of facilities management.)

Please pray that the water and sanitation systems are fully restored within budget.



RANCHO LA SCHERPA

The God of hope continues to give us joy and peace.

Rafiki Overseas Staff Training

In October '06 we both attended Missions Training in Texas where we learned that over 400 children are cared for in Rafiki Villages today. When you joined Charmaine on this journey in 1999 there were none. God is enabling the work to flourish! The training that remains for Tarry is called "Survival Camp." Unfortunately Tarry must host a group at Rancho La Scherpa at that time.

Please pray for training provisions to be made for us. The God of hope continues to give us joy and peace.

Additional News

Charmaine volunteers to teach the Bible to three- and four-year-olds in Santa Barbara's BSF class and continues marketing Providence Hall, a Christian College Preparatory High School in Santa Barbara. The school will offer a classical Christian secondary education. We thank God for the positive response from the community and families.

Please pray for full enrollment upon opening in the fall of 2007.

(Rafiki is also offering classical Christian schooling in Africa and missionaries have the opportunity to teach three- and four-year-old children.)

With all the additional comments above, you can see how God could be using this time to prepare us for work on the mission field with Rafiki.

The God of hope continues to give us joy and peace.

Your Involvement

We appreciate your support in prayer as you receive these newsletters. If you do not receive prayer updates and would like to be on our prayer team; please let us know by sending an e-mail to Kim Bradshaw at mmbshaw1@comcast.net.

Perhaps you would like to serve on the mission field either short term, or as Rafiki Over Seas Staff (ROS). Contact the Rafiki Home Office to learn more about opportunities to serve abroad.

Charmaine met with one woman today who is considering the mission field. While it was fun to share information about the past, it was wonderful to hear the desire in her voice to serve others, something that is only God-given and not a natural human interest. The God of hope is filling her with joy and peace.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.
Romans 15:13

With love in Christ,



Tarry and Charmaine Nelson

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P.S. From the Home Office: Charmain and Tarry are at 77% of the total needed for their next term January 2008–December 2009.