



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Dear friends and family,

This prayer comes to mind as we reflect on our three and a half months in Liberia. God has truly blessed us with His graciousness and given us peace as we work with Joanne Colvin and the nationals of Liberia to provide for the children God has brought to the Rafiki Village Liberia.

While there have been challenges and a great deal of work to do in the absence of our much missed teammates, Donna and Ed Bland, the Lord has blessed us with peace as we find new ways for all of us to work together. The blessings have been many. In fact, Tarry was saying we have had a “double blessing” since coming to Liberia. When we arrived there were seven children being cared for and now there are fourteen in the care of our Rafiki Mothers. You have been introduced to each of the new children in our prayer letters. Thank you for praying for the adjustment of Miatta, Jehu, Joseph, Patricia, Nancy, Amos, and Benjamin (previously known as Survivor). They are settling in and finding comfort in the regular routine at Rafiki.

In this “double blessing” we have seen new developments in the children like Michael.



MICHAEL

Michael has begun to use his words more and more. He is trying to speak in four word sentences now. Although this often requires a reminder from his

Rafiki Mother and Mrs. Nelson, that this is how to say something, it is a blessing to hear him trying and repeating new phrases. And Anna Blessing is learning to talk, too.



ANNA BLESSING

We are blessed to see the children gain weight as they enjoy three regular meals a day for the first time in their lives. We don't want to say that their weight has doubled. But we do know that Tarry's days are full of making sure the food is in stock and prepared well. Tarry has been managing the grounds staff, along with three cooks in the kitchen and two cleaners in the laundry and Dining Hall.

Our double blessings also include a brand new truck, called WL or "Will" (short for White Lightning). We trust Will's four-wheel drive and brand new engine to provide dependable transportation in the midst of the upcoming rainy season that causes roads to be impassable without four-wheel drive. "Will" has a double cab so we can carry passengers along with cargo. Thank you for making it possible to buy the new car.



CAR WITH MOMS AND KIDS

One of the richest parts of our double blessing is the Rafiki Bible Study. We are studying the Bible with the national staff on a daily basis. While we personally study the same text on our own, studying the text with the staff provides opportunities for meaningful discussions during the regular work day. Doing the Bible study with the Rafiki Mothers gives them new insight into God's Word. It makes them even more accurate in telling their children about God and Jesus. It is truly a blessing to be a part of that training.

Over the years many of you prayed for the health of Charmaine's father. And recently you prayed for Tarry's parents as well. God has blessed us in restoring Tarry's father after open-heart surgery and his mother after a stroke. They are both living with Tarry's brother and sister-in-law now. It is a blessing to know that they are being well cared for and gaining strength. Charmaine's dad continues to experience good health. Thank you for praying along with us. We thank God for the provision for our parents.

As you continue to pray for us and the Rafiki Village:

- Please pray for us to be effective in coming along side to train the mothers and national staff working in the Village.
- Pray for quality care and training of the children delivered by the mothers and other staff.
- Pray for our new teammates Babs and Dave Venneman as they prepare to leave California to join us in Liberia. Pray for their safe arrival along with their belongings.
- Please pray for the provision of a teacher for the Rafiki school.
- Pray for the children to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

It is our prayer that you are blessed by your participation with us in this work.

With love in Christ,

Tarry & Charmaine Nelson

Charmaine and Tarry Nelson

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