



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6 ESV).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Ritters in the Rift Valley of Ethiopia.



RURAL ETHIOPIA

Work Permit

Praise the Lord with us! Mike received his work permit in October. Soon afterward he received his residency permit. We appreciate all the prayers you offered for the work permit on our behalf.

The Village

Things are moving along with the Village. Mike and Ken have selected the company to drill the bore hole for the well. A survey is being done to select the best spot for the bore hole.

Preparations are also being made to get the transformer hooked up for the Village electric supply. Mike has been busy caring for the vegetation at the Village. *Please join us in prayer that a contractor could be selected soon.*



ENGLISH CHURCH SERVICE

English Church Service

Our English service is going very well. We have a group of Ethiopians who faithfully attend our service every week. During our short time of meeting together, we have seen God give guidance and answer many prayers in their lives. Nineteen has been our highest attendance. We are slowly working our way through the book of Mark verse by verse.



JOSH, JON, JESSICA, KATY, AND MATT
TELLING STORY OF ESTHER

Lewi Academy

Every other week, the Ritter/Dulany children along with Lori and Sherri go to a local pre-school in Nazareth. Lewi means Levi. Jessica writes a Bible story and plans out a flannelgraph presentation. The others help with the flannelgraph story by holding backgrounds or pieces to be used. Sherri usually tells the story in English while Moola, the school administrator, translates the story into Amharic for the children. We present the story along with a Bible song in each of the three classes. Our purpose is to share God's love and to expose the children to more English. The children then play with the little ones during their recess time. Their favorite game is to "chase and catch" the older ones.



JESSICA (12), BEN (9), AND JON (14)

Christmas

We will be celebrating Christmas twice. We will have our family celebration on December 25th. We will celebrate Christmas with the Ethiopians on January 7th when Ethiopia celebrates Christmas.

Our Family

On Sunday, October 22, we received a phone call from Mike's mother. Mike's father had died unexpectedly in his sleep. Due to the generous gift from people at our home church, Lakewood Park Baptist, Mike was able to fly to Grabill, Indiana, to be with his mother during this time of loss. Sherri and the children stayed home in Ethiopia. He returned to Ethiopia two and a half weeks later. Sherri and the children were never "all alone in Ethiopia." Our Lord is faithful. We had our co-workers, the Dulanys, and our Ethiopian friends looking after us. Mike was glad he was able to share in person with some of you about our work here.

The Dulanys

Lori Dulany returned to the States in early November due to health problems. She took their three children with her. She is scheduled to have surgery in mid-December. She and the children should return to Ethiopia at the end of January. Ken has returned to the U.S. to be there for Lori's surgery and for Christmas. He will return to Ethiopia the beginning of January. *Please remember them in your prayers.*

Praises:

- Mike's safe return to Ethiopia
- Mike's work permit
- Good attendance at the English church service

Prayers:

- For Lori Dulany's upcoming surgery and fast recovery
- For the Ritters as they hold down the fort in Ethiopia
- For our children as they are without their playmates
- For construction to start soon after the New Year

We praise our God as we remember you,

Mike & Sherri Ritter

Mike, Sherri, Jon, Jessica and Ben Ritter

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