



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: “O LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth” (2 Kings 19:15 ESV).



RAFIKI VILLAGE EMPLOYEES AND CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

Greetings from the Rafiki Village Ethiopia.

Our last newsletter informed you of the coming of the first children. Since that letter, we have added two more children and hope to add another this week. We have five boys and one girl. We hope to add another girl who is a half sibling to one of the boys. Our prayer is to continue to add a new child every week or two till we have reached capacity. We have three mothers in three cottages so that would be thirty children at this point.

POWER

Power supply to our Village seems at times to be a never ending struggle. Four weeks ago we lost power. When it came back three days later, we were running under low power. We are very thankful for our generator. Mike runs the generator when we need to pump water for our water tanks. While the generator is running, we run the Village and our personal washing machines.

WATER

Mike has been very thankful for the rains we have been receiving lately during what is normally the end of dry season. Since we have to run the generator to fill the water tanks, the rains have saved our water pump much work to keep trees and plants watered. We have four gardeners who work six days a week to keep the Village beautiful. The mothers care for the flowers around their own cottages.

THE SCHOOL

The new school term started in January. We added three day-students. The day-students are children of our employees. What a wonderful benefit to offer our employees that their children can receive a free education with free uniforms and supplies. We have four children in our three-year-old class and three children in our four-year-old class, resident children

and day-students. More children may be joining the four-year-old class soon.

We have one national teacher, Zemen. What a blessing she is to Sherri as she has fully grasped the Rafiki vision. Since the school is so small, we have the children combined for two hours a day. Then for one hour she works with the three-year-olds, and Sherri works with the four-year-olds on number and letter literacy.



FINGER PAINTING

THE RITTER FAMILY

God has been faithful to our children as we serve Him. Jon and Jess recently completed two weeks of intense testing at school. We were pleased with their marks. All three children have competed in sports this term. Jess and Jon played basketball and Ben played soccer. Jess' team fought a hard battle in the semi final of their playoff tournament, but came up a few points short of playing in the final game. Jon is soon to begin his true love, soccer season.

We are so thankful for people who invite our children into their homes so that they can play sports or go to evening activities at the school in Addis. Jess was living with a family from the U.S. Embassy a few nights a week during basketball season, but she has moved back home full time since basketball is over.

Sometimes are harder than others to be away from the US. Right now we are not able to attend a wedding of a much beloved family member. There are health issues with Mike's mom's husband and with Sherri's parents. We truly appreciate your prayers for our family in the U.S. while we serve Him here.

THE DULANY FAMILY

Please pray for the Dulany family, our only ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) coworkers in Ethiopia. Lori has had to return to the U.S. for some surgery. If all goes as planned, she should return to Ethiopia by the end of March. Ken and their three children remain in Ethiopia. This is a mixed blessing for Lori. Her sister was recently diagnosed with a very aggressive breast cancer. Lori is able to get her physical needs met, and she is also able to support her sister as she starts chemotherapy. *Please pray for all of Lori's family at this time.*

THIRD TERM

March marks four years that the Ritter family has lived in Ethiopia. We continue to feel called to serve God in Ethiopia. All the kids want to graduate from their school here. In January, we started our third two-year term. Please prayerfully consider joining our team. Join us financially, prayerfully or maybe even physically by serving as a MiniMissionary who comes to Ethiopia for a couple of weeks to a year. Also sponsors are needed for the children. For information on becoming a MiniMissionary or a child sponsor, contact Rafiki: www.rafiki-foundation.org or 352-483-9131.

We were recently informed that our support account is running in the red. Please join us in prayer concerning this situation.

Thank you to all who have faithfully supported us during these four years. Without your faithful prayers, we could not do what we do.

Grace and Peace,

Mike, Sherri, Jon, Jessica, and Ben Ritter

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ROS #166

From the Home Office: The Ritters are currently at 10% of the total funding needed for their current term 3 – January 2010 – December 2011.