



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth"* (Psalm 121:1-2 ESV).

Nazareth, the town where we are living until our house is completed at the Village, is part of the Rift Valley. We sit in a depression surrounded by wonderful hills. It is a joy to be surrounded by the wonderful hills and mountains. These above verses often come to mind as we look out over the wonderful city of Nazareth.

### **Our FAQ (frequently asked questions):**

*Does Mike have his work permit?* Thanks to all who have prayed. Please keep praying. It has been a long process, but as of this writing, he does not have the permit yet. The paperwork is looking good, and he should have it by the end of the month.

*Are you learning Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia?* Yes, we are learning Amharic. We go to a one hour class twice a week. Our classes are taught by an Ethiopian who is fluent in English. *Please pray for our language acquisition.*



ENGLISH CLASS

*Are you teaching English?* Yes, Mike and Sherri volunteer at the same school, Family Foreign Language School, where we take Amharic classes. The school focuses on teaching English to Ethiopians from elementary age to older adults. We work in the classroom to give the students proper pronunciation and to strengthen their vocabulary. Jon and Jessica go along at times and also volunteer.

*Are you making friends in Ethiopia?* Yes. We are developing a wonderful friendship with our co workers, the Dulanys. The kids long to play together everyday. Since we live in different

areas of the city, this is not possible until we all move to the Village. Mike has made a friend named Elias who helps him develop his knowledge of Ethiopian plants. All of us enjoy our friendships with the owner and his teachers at Family Foreign Language School.

*Where are you attending church?* Our team has started an English service at an Ethiopian church. The church has been gracious enough to give us a room on Sunday mornings to use. It is our prayer that Ethiopians will come to the service to hear native English speakers, and find a deeper knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please pray for our service. Ken Dulany is leading the service for September. Mike may lead it in October.



SHERRI, ROSEMARY JENSEN, AND LORI DULANY

*How was the visit from Home Office?* The first weekend in August, Rosemary Jensen, Rafiki's general director, along with Richard Walenta, Rafiki's general contractor, and Chris Moyer, Rafiki's architect, visited our team. Ken, Richard, Chris, and Mike interviewed Ethiopian contractors who will work beside Mike to build the Village. They discussed the building of the Village. Rosemary was able to encourage us and better explain the new vision of Rafiki Foundation, Inc. We introduced them to an Ethiopian coffee ceremony.



ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY

*Has construction started on the village?* No. Some revisions have been made to the layout of the buildings and new plans needed to be sent to us. The Village does not have water or electricity yet. Finally, rainy season is just ending here. We are waiting for the land to dry out a bit.



MEN MIKE IS DISCIPLING

*What keeps Mike busy while waiting for construction to start?* Mike has been discipling two Ethiopians. He had the privilege to lead one Ethiopian to Christ. He has overseen the planting of vegetation along the fence wall and other work to prepare the Village for construction. He also makes frequent trips to Addis Ababa, the capital, to secure supplies and government paperwork.

*How are the children?* They have adapted to life here very well. They started a new school year in mid-August. We are continuing to home educate at this point. Please pray that they would have opportunities to develop friendships with Ethiopian children.

*How can we receive updates from you?* We send out a praise and prayer e-mail update once a month during months that we do not send out a prayer letter. If you do not receive this monthly update and would like to, please e-mail us at: Mike18andsherri@hotmail.com. We will then add you to the list.

We praise our God as we remember you,

*Mike & Sherri Ritter*

Mike, Sherri, Jon, Jessica, and Ben Ritter

### **Contact information**

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