



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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*"Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not" (Numbers 11:23 ESV)*

Dear Friends and Family,

We love you and wish we could share all the details of how God has been providing for us through what would have seemed impossible without Him. The ocean would be drained dry if it were our ink well! We have opted for the short subjects report to you.

In the Village, eighty-four children now call it home and often sing "Welcome, welcome, welcome to Rafiki" as we enter the gate with a car filled to overflowing with children.

We have hired a *matola* (mini van) which comes each Sunday to transport four cottages of children to church and back.

We have a promise for the finances to build our tenth cottage after the first of the year.



CHILDREN IN NOAH'S ARK MUSICAL DURING GAMES

We have had about a dozen MiniMissionaries come to Malawi to help us with GAMES programs during the last two school breaks, to put up mosquito nets, teach in the schools, oversee meals while the mumps passed through the cottages, and teach sports and games to the children. This has been a wonderful blessing for all.

The Rafiki Satellite Village in Mphasazi, about two hours south of Mzuzu, is nearly ready for ground breaking after many impossible hurdles being overcome. Many orphans in the area will now have quality education and nutrition.

The duplex is very near occupancy and we have Portland and John Mithen coming to join the team. Portland is trained as a physician's assistant and will become the medical director. John has

administration training and will be working with the Village financial tasks.

We also are welcoming Donna and Ed Bland as Village director and teacher, but God is bringing them to us in bits and pieces. They were serving in Liberia when Donna fell and seriously fractured her lower leg. They went back to Houston for surgery and treatment. While Donna continues to recover in Texas with an external fixator in place, Ed travels back and forth between home and Malawi.

At the end of the year, our family will welcome twins! Craig and Linda are calling them miracle blessings from the Lord and we grandparents are still trying to really imagine the life within Linda as we see the ultrasound photos from afar.

Life in the Village continues to be full and some new activities are challenging our children to grow and trust and serve the Lord. Our children are taking part each week in choir activities at Katawa CCAP church, learning dance routines and songs along side other local children. The children with "extra" left feet are persevering and growing more in love with the Lord as they are gently encouraged by the ladies, who are leading.



UNCLE ALEX AND FOOTBALL (SOCCER) TEAM.

One of the day guards, Alex, has organized our first football (soccer) team and practices with the children many afternoons. He says they are ready for a game and proper football boots! The boys are learning the girls can play along side them and are talented too! Ralph and Paul, the team captain and co-captain, came to get a couple of new balls with coach Alex one afternoon. When asked about how the team was doing, they thoughtfully listed the players with the talents they had noticed in each, even the girls.

Each cottage has again visited the Crisis Nursery and played with the infants living there. It is a program that cares for infant orphans for eighteen months while the family sorts out whether they can care for the child after adjusting to the loss of the mother. The children are then given back to the family or adopted. Two of our youngest girls started their lives at the Crisis Nursery. Our children continue to ask, "When are we going back to see the babies?"



RAFIKI MOTHER ROSE AND CHILDREN PREPARING GROUND NUTS FOR DINNER



DAVID AND DUMISANI PRACTICING BIKE RIDING AT GOGO'S HOME

Each cottage has also come to our home to have a day of cooking and playing. Each mother plans the menu and then mother and children all go shopping in town for the ingredients. What a joy to have them come and cook and play and eat at our table.

David and I are living in faith and seeing daily how the Lord's arm is not too short.

We left the Village on July 23 traveling to Lilongwe to have what we thought were kidney stones treated. We arrived at a clinic there to discover it was not stones, rather what they thought was a cyst on his right kidney. They said he needed a CT scan and the only scan machine in all of Malawi is in Blantyre. But, even if the scan showed something that needed to be surgically treated, there are no urologists in Malawi. After consult, it was decided to medically evacuate us to Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa. More tests have revealed a six cm tumor on his right kidney. The liver and lungs are clear. Because of his marginal kidney function, and repeated bleeding episodes, surgery will be here in South Africa, surrounded by new friends. The hospital is fully

equipped, with excellent nephrology and surgery staff. If recovery goes well, about three weeks after the surgery, we will be able to return to Malawi. God has provided a bed and breakfast that only takes family members of patients as a "home away from home" for Darlene.

God promises all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to his purpose. We live in that promise.

### Join us in praying

- For the team in Malawi in our absence. When everyone is in place we will have nine long-term overseas staff, but for now the three staff (and part time Ed) have their hands full.
- For our children to continue to know God has an arm that is not too short and intends good for us.
- For provision of and wisdom in the treatment and recovery ahead for David.
- For our grandchildren on the way.
- For the start of the Satellite Village.

Thanks be to God for the gift of life and His faithfulness to us each and every day.

You are loved!

*David & Darlene Schaffer*

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RAFIKI MOTHER MONICA AND CHILDREN WRAPPED IN DONATED POLAR FLEECE BLANKETS

NOTE: Please visit [www.rafiqi-foundation.org](http://www.rafiqi-foundation.org) to find information about your ROS, what Rafiki is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.