



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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"I will wait for the LORD. . . I will put my trust in him"
(Isaiah 8:17, NIV).



FUN AND FAMILY AT RAFIKI

Back Home

Hello All! I arrived back in Nairobi at the end of August, where I jumped right back into the middle of the school term. Thankfully God had provided a young MiniMissionary planning to go into the medical field to take over my science classes while I was on furlough. The plans that I had left were followed without a hitch, so upon my return I just stepped right back into the curriculum right where I expected.

Since my return some big changes have occurred in our Education Program. First, we have a new education director. Her name is Primrose Pennicooke and she is from Canada by way of Malaysia. To learn more about Primrose you can read some of her newsletters on the Rafiki website. We also have the addition of Judy Stokes as our art and vocational arts teacher. Judy has spent the last five years at the Rafiki Village Nigeria establishing their vocational arts program, so it will be exciting to see how our program will develop.

As is the nature of our life here at Rafiki, things are always changing. My schedule is one of those things that has changed since my return. I still teach the Class 8 life science and geography and Class 7 earth science; but in addition, I now teach Class 7 literature, Class 2 reading, and Class 4 social studies. I'm enjoying the literature and reading classes since I really do love reading myself and hope to pass that love on to my students.

One big thing we are doing in our school as teachers, is focusing on integrating a biblical worldview into everything that we teach. This means that in every subject and unit, I should be able to integrate the academic material with a biblical principle. For example, last term I taught a lesson with the academic objectives of having the students describe how endotherms maintain their ideal body temperature and list advantages that endotherms have over exotherms. The biblical truth I chose with this lesson dealt with creation and came from Colossians 1:16-17; all things have been created and are sustained by God. My integration of the two focused on having the students understand that there are differences in God's creation which cause diversity, by comparing and contrasting endotherms and exotherms. They were able to identify these two major categories of vertebrates through physical characteristics, which they were then able to see God's creation plan incorporated diversity of animals from the very beginning.



SALIM READING TO KINDERGARTNERS

Exams

For the past few weeks I have been focusing on exams. We are anxious to fill our classes to the maximum student load of eighteen students per class. If we do not have those numbers with our own Village children then we look for children in our surrounding community to take into our school. So, I was asked to coordinate our entrance exam efforts.

The first thing we did was to have each teacher create a basic math, English, and reading exam for their grade level. I typed all these exams up and the teachers then reviewed the exams for consistency and natural progression. Then I made the necessary changes.

While the writing of the exams was going on, we were reaching out to the local schools and churches with the types of numbers that we need to fill our classes. We are looking to take in an additional forty-nine day-students from the community. We got lists of students from our inquiries, which I looked at based on our needs and came up with a two-day schedule for the exam process. We then notified the churches and schools the names of the students that would sit for the exams. Altogether we interviewed almost 100 potential candidates for Classes 1 through 9. Currently we are looking at the exams and praying about which students would be the best fit into our school and where to place them.

We will notify the students whom we are accepting into our school by the end of October and then have to do medical exams and uniform fittings for all those students. We hope to start the 2010 school year in January with a full complement of students in our primary and junior secondary schools; about 180 students learning about Jesus Christ through our Rafiki Bible Study and integrated into all the other subjects that they learn.

What Does the Future Hold?

As you read from my last newsletter, I returned to the U.S. in July for furlough because my first two-year term with Rafiki will be coming to an end in January 2010. My furlough focused on sharing about the work that God is doing through Rafiki on the African continent and specifically about how God is using me at the Rafiki Village Kenya. Furlough is also the time where my supporters are reminded that I



need financial support in order to stay in the field.

WITH MY SISTERS IN NEW YORK CITY

I would like to thank all the people who hosted me during my furlough, all the people who attended my talks and coffees, and all the people who have already pledged support. If you haven't done so yet, you can easily do this on the Rafiki website.

I don't know what the future holds, but I trust that God does.

Called to Serve,

Elisabeth Joy Shabouk

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