



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Greetings from Liberia!

As of April 15, the dry season was officially over in Liberia. We are waiting for the rains to come, but April was a dry month. When we ask the locals where the rain is, they say it's coming, and we know it is. All 200 inches of it!

And so the rush is on here, to do the stuff that should be done before the deluge hits. Painting cottages, planting trees and bushes, and caulking windows are a few of the items that are best done when you don't have one hand on an umbrella.

This past month we were blessed to receive two more children into the Rafiki community, a brother and sister from the Ivory Coast. Their father died after a long illness and their mother was killed after being accused of witchcraft. Their grandmother could not care for them, so they were sent to an uncle in Monrovia. However, his job pays \$30 a month, and that hardly feeds his own three children. He contacted Rafiki, looking for a good home for his brother's children. *Please pray that God will continue to direct us to the children He has chosen for residency at Rafiki.*

When the health manager (Babs) and the ChildCare director (Dottie) took the two children for physicals, they wondered if there may be some problem with them. They were very sleepy and lethargic for four- and five-year-old children. The appointment took awhile, so the ladies stopped at a roadside market and bought the children each a banana, a meat pie, and a hard-boiled egg for lunch (less than \$1.50). After eating, they began to perk up. The four-year-old boy began fussing with the knobs on the car door and his sister started to play with a toy. It was good to see them act like normal children, and it is amazing how fast children respond when they get some good nutrition!

Caleb and Rachel are adjusting well to their new surroundings. We even heard some gutsy laughs out of them this past week, but smiles do not come easily for them yet. Life has been tough with all the changes they have had in their young lives. Past experience says that within six weeks they will have found their place, and be happily involved in life here at Rafiki Village Liberia. *Please pray for all the children at the Village, to be healthy and safe, physically and emotionally.*

School and church attendance are important components in making a regular routine for the children. The children consider it a privilege to attend school and church. One of the local pastors commented that he enjoys the Rafiki children attending his church because they are a good influence on the other children in church. That speaks highly of the discipline and direction given by the mothers. *Please pray for the spiritual growth of each child, that they may learn more about God and come to love Him deeply. Please pray also for the mothers, as they love and train the children.*



RACHEL, ANNA, AND MIATTA HELP DAVE GARDEN.

The month of May marks our first year here. Wow! Who would have thought we would make it even a month? But God equips and enables His people to do things beyond their own abilities. We are truly unlikely missionaries!



OBADIAH, CALEB, AND ADAM PICK WATERMELONS FOR SUPPER.

Thank you for the support that you have given us this past year. Without each one of you behind us, we would have missed the joys and challenges of serving these defenseless children. Through your prayers, you are a vital part in this good work of saving children and giving them hope for the future. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. *Please continue to pray for our health and safety and endurance. Please pray that every day we will lean on God's enabling power as we attempt to do the work set before us here in Liberia.*

Thanks again,

Dave + Babs Veneman

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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information about your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the Villages, and the Exchange.