



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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July 2005

Dear faithful supporters,



THE PEOPLE OF RAFIKI VILLAGE GHANA

Greetings from Ghana! Words are hard to find that adequately express the gratitude I have for your partnership. Thank you for your prayers, donations, cards, and emails! I sincerely appreciate you! The entire Rafiki Village greets you! Above is a picture of the people of the Rafiki Village Ghana at the entrance to the Village, taken December 2004. I teach the girls in the navy skirts and white shirts on the left. We now have twenty-four girls (pictured below). The girls do not live at the Rafiki Village; they travel from neighboring villages for day classes, (8 A.M. – 4 P.M.). The other children are the orphans that live on site. We now have fifty-five orphans, six national Rafiki Mothers ("mammias"), and six national Mother's Assistants ("aunties").



ALL TWENTY-FOUR GIRLS OF THE RAFIKI GIRLS CENTER.

I live on site in a newly constructed duplex. I am very thankful for this home. I have a gas cooker so even when the electricity goes out I can boil water for instant coffee!



Accra is a city of color: many beautiful plants and people in their bright outfits. The sun is strong and the humidity is very high. Traffic is busy. Street vendors walk up and down the middle of the street selling items in traffic! Women carry big platters of fruit or boiled eggs on their heads, or tubs of plastic bags of water; men hold up large bags of toilet paper to sell! Men stand on corners and precisely hack coconuts with a machete for buyers to drink the milk. It is great! Africa is so special. The average wage here is 13,000 *cedis* a day and a dollar is 9000, so about a \$1.45 a day! The picture below shows a woman selling clothes. She has some on hangers in her hand and on her head she has a "bale" of clothes that she has bought to re-sale. The other picture is Ghana's form of Home Depot.



My first two months here have been a combination of extreme joy and deep sorrow, of steadfast conviction and profound doubt. I have cried many tears, both of happiness and of mourning. I am learning to cling to the promise of the verses below:

"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5-6).

I am not sure how to best describe the time, so I will share with you some excerpts from my journal. One of the books I am using during my quiet time was a gift from my "Bible-study ladies" entitled *Echoes of Eternity, Listening to the Father, Volume Two*; by Hal M. Helms. I have been amazed how God has spoken to me through this book. The quotes in my entries below are from this book.

Extreme Joy

Perhaps the best example of "tears of joy" is when we received our newest orphan, Moses.

June 29th. I had a beautiful day! We picked up our newest orphan today, which makes fifty-five

now. We drove northeast to the Volta region to a city named Ho Hoi. It took about 3.5 hours. The baby's Christian name is Moses; he was born on May 8th, Mothers' Day; his mother died from a hemorrhage giving birth, and the father cannot support the baby. There is no other family to care for him. A pastor from that region took him until the paperwork was cleared. We heard about him from a missionary couple that works in that region and knew us from church. Baby Moses is so thin, has some skin rashes, and mosquito bites, but otherwise seems OK. I doubt if he weighs six pounds. I was holding him in my lap on the way home praying for him and crying tears of thanksgiving for God saving him and allowing me this beautiful privilege to be able to see it. May God use him in a mighty way to bring many to Him!

Deep Sorrow

I offer two examples; a personal sadness and a grief felt for another.

May 17th. I was so sad and homesick when I got up this morning. A feeling of separation that went deeper than I have ever known seemed to engulf me. I miss my family and my pets so very much. Lord, I need You and Your strength.

"This is a hard assignment for you, My child, one for which you were not ready in earlier years. Your 'readiness' now is fragile, susceptible to temptation and failure . . . You are being entrusted with My words to go to many hearts. Only I can know the extent and use I will make of them . . . Stay in a straight—and yes strait—course and all will be well" (pp. 123-124).

Lord, please use every tear I have shed to change a heart for you! I trust you to reap a full harvest.

May 20th. In Health and Hygiene class one girl timidly raised her hand and asked "If your parents are forcing you to marry someone and you don't want to, what can you do?" There was fear in her eyes and grief in my heart. Lord, I was not ready for that one! Yes, I know that arranged marriages are part of this culture, and other students in our center face similar situations. How am I to help? I pray for their salvation! Hear me, Lord. I pray that her parents will change their minds!

"Anxiety has no place in our relationship. Your anxiety is rooted in lack of faith in My overarching, prevailing goodness . . . This is a time for faith. Believe as you have never believed before—let yourself believe and not hold back" (p.106).

Profound Doubt

May 16th. I am supposed to teach music and art? Lord, I don't have any musical talent at all,

you know that. And I can barely draw a crooked line. Why did you even send me to seminary? None of this makes sense to me today. I am trying to see your purpose in sending me here, in shaping my life so far. When can I go to Liberia? How will I be able to leave these girls that have already captured my heart? So many questions and so many reasons to doubt . . .

"It is not for you to fathom the mysteries of My kingdom . . . It is for you to enter into them by faith. Your 'rational,' reasoning, questioning mind has put many barriers in your way. You remain outside the 'mystery,' looking in—or even away—rather than entering through the open door . . . get beyond where you are and taste the goodness of the Lord as you have not done" (p.97).

Steadfast Conviction

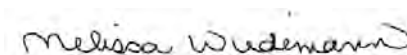
June 25th. Lord, I am feeling a heavy burden for the girls and for the many people I know that do not yet know Christ. I have been praying for some of my friends for years, are you going to hear and save them? And now these new sheep, the girls at the center that do not know you as Savior. Please pour out your Spirit and give them a new heart, save them Lord. Today, if I am sure of one thing, it is that You alone are faithful and I am where I should be. Thank you!!!!

"Do not fret yourself over the unfinished state of those you love. Trust Me that I am still at work and can make all things new . . . look up, wait, pray and believe, and you will see My glory. I am the true and faithful One, and My promises never fail" (p. 122).

July 4th. God, I know you have provided each sponsor that is part of the ministry here. Thank you for their love and support. I know that I could not be here without them. Help me to convey my appreciation.

Well dear friends and loved ones, I hope I have shared a glimpse of what God is doing with you and through you. Please feel free to e-mail me as we now have internet connection at the village! It is not as "steadfast" as in the States, and I still have trouble sending attachments, but I am so glad to have it! Thank you again and may God bless you abundantly.

Love,



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