



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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April 2007

Greeting Dear Loved Ones!

Suppose you teach junior high school—would you ever expect to hear these words from your students?

"I love my teacher so much because. . ."

". . .she corrects me when I am wrong" or

". . .even if she gives work and you can't (do not want to) do it, she will force you to do it and finish it" or

". . .she always corrects us any time we do the wrong the thing" or

". . .when I go wrong, she doesn't look at me to go on sinning."

Yes, I was surprised, too! My director, Cathy, secretly planned a "farewell" presentation for me with my students. They read a list that they made entitled "The Reasons Why We Love Madam Melissa So Much." The sentences above were part of that list! The students did a hilarious "mock drama" of me teaching—with one of the boys playing my role in one of my dresses! Naturally they included the phrases I must have said countless times each day: "always say 'please,'" "don't scoot your desk," "put your feet on the floor," "face forward," "keep your hands to yourself," "did you ask permission to leave your desk?" Then they sang a little song they wrote and one of my favorite hymns, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Mr. Martin, the basket-weaving instructor, gave me a beautiful basket. Finally, they presented me with a wonderful photograph (see below) of the whole class and each student gave me a hand made card. I was so overwhelmed that I could not read the cards until I got home; for I knew I would just break down and sob. And I did. Then I re-read them and cried again. They are tears of sadness mixed with tears of joy and gratitude for the time I have had with these lovely teens. I wish each of you could have been in that room with me to share this "forever memory." I sincerely thank you for supporting me and the work here!



Another "forever memory" is the story of Josephine. She is why we do what we do. After completing her studies at the Rafiki Girls' Center, she became gainfully employed with Rafiki Village Ghana! She is a cook and her smile brightens the entire kitchen as you can tell from the photo below. What a blessing to look back and see God's hand guiding her! Last year while teaching the entrepreneurship class, I took Josephine and the other students to the bank. This is the first exposure they had ever had to a bank. It was a big deal! The manager took the time to explain to the girls about opening an account and how the bank works. Recently, when I asked Josephine what she was going to do with her first



paycheck, she said, "Please Madam, I am going to put it in the bank" and just beamed! Praise God with me for this fruit from the harvest!

Liberia

The latest estimate on the completion of the Village in Liberia is now the end of June. Hence, I am still not sure of my date of departure to Liberia, but now it seems I will return to the States prior to moving to Liberia. I will keep you posted and appreciate your prayers for the transition.

Finally, I need your prayers once again for my neck. I am not sure what has happened but the pain has returned. I am very frustrated and need your prayers for my faith not to falter as much as I need them for healing. I am considering returning earlier to Tennessee to see the surgeon.

To all of you who have invited me to share with you/your church I am very grateful and will be setting final dates very soon for this summer. I

appreciate your patience and flexibility.

May God bless and protect you every day in every way!

Much love and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Wedemann".

Melissa/Missy

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P.S. From the Home Office: Melissa is at 67% of the total needed for her current term, January 2007 – December 2008.