



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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January 2007

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times; having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).

Greetings dear friends and loved ones!



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE RAFIKI VILLAGE GHANA RESIDENTS!

Can you relate to this struggle during your Christmas shopping? You are trying to determine that “perfect gift” for that “perfect someone” in your life. What do you give someone who has everything they want, (and if they don’t have it already, they just go out and buy it for themselves)? Would it not have been wonderful to give them something so that at all times, in all circumstances they would have all that they need? Well, only God’s grace is that perfect gift and He lavishes it upon us! Why? So that we can abound in the good works He planned for us from the beginning of time! This is truly an amazing thought when we spend some time thinking about it. So as we begin another year let us take some “R & R,” Reflection and Resolution. Sorry, no rest for the weary!

Reflection: Remembering the past allows us to more fully understand the above verse. We have seen God’s abounding grace, perfect

timing, and endless provisions so that we can abound in His good works. I would like to introduce to you two images that are applicable to our time of reflection. African symbols known as *Adinkra* are ubiquitous in Ghana. They are seen on cloth and walls, in pottery and logos. The most popular *Adinkra* symbol is the *Gye Nyame*, pictured here. The cushions of my bamboo furniture are covered with *Gye Nyame* prints. This symbol



means “except for God” and represents the omnipotence and supremacy of God. As we move into 2007, I am so aware that except for God and His abundant grace I could not serve here with Rafiki. He allows this through YOU. Except for God using you, your time, your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial gifts I could not have this privilege. Thank you!

Except for God, Lydia would not have been able to write the following when she learned she had to leave Rafiki and move in with her uncle in Accra, “in this world God had a plan for everyone. . . . Please madams, don’t be worry that I am living (leaving) Rafiki. I know you have help me to a stage and now I have to leave. . . . I really know that you love me and you care for me much, but in everything we should give thanks to God.”

Lydia came by for a visit during her Christmas break and we all thanked God that her uncle has allowed her to go to a vocational school for catering. While she longs to return to Rafiki, she is trusting God’s plan for her life. She REALLY understands God’s promise of meeting all her needs, and I gain strength from her faith.



Another Adinkra symbol is the *Sankofa*, which resembles a bird and means “return and get it;” The *Sankofa* signifies the importance of learning from the past. I know God is using the time Lydia was at Rafiki (her past) to equip her to show forth His glory to all she meets.

So what have we learned from our past? Perhaps the hardest lesson I have learned this year is that I do not have to know why God is allowing things to happen; I just have to trust that He is in control and He has a good and perfect plan.

It has been over two years since I began raising support for my work with Rafiki! God has provided all my needs: the funds necessary for two years' support, prayer warriors, caretakers for my pets, a smooth move across the ocean, a wonderful team here in Ghana, beautiful young girls to teach each day, and a glimpse of my future home in Liberia. Of course I would have preferred not to have had neck surgery, but God provided everything necessary for that as well. He blessed my time of recovery with my family and restored me to ministry in Africa. Except for God, none of this would be possible. God is able!

Resolution: In the past I have made New Year's Resolutions. I now realize each day requires a new resolve. This month we will begin our first semester at the Rafiki Junior Secondary School! This is equivalent to a junior high school in America. I will be teaching teenage boys and girls the subjects of Bible, reading and grammar, math, science; and overseeing the basket weaving time. I resolve to rely on God's grace, power, and wisdom. *Please pray for me and the students as we embark on this wonderful Christian curriculum.*

Our main prayer need at the Village in Ghana is for staff. We need national staff for teachers, mothers, mothers' assistants, and Rafiki Overseas Staff to fill open missionary positions. *Please resolve to pray for God's provisions to be poured out here so we can do His good works.*

Liberia: The current plan is for me to move to Liberia the first part of April. Construction on the Village there is going very well! The pictures show the front of my duplex at the beginning of construction and the roof going up not even three months later! Except for God!



SEPTEMBER 23, 2006



DECEMBER 19, 2006

I would ask you to pray for guidance as I search for a vehicle. I have decided to buy a car in the U.S. and ship it to Liberia. Pray that God will direct my dad to the car and all the logistics will go smoothly. And, speaking of my dad, he is back in Ghana! I am so very thankful! He arrived on January 2nd and we both are thrilled beyond words. He will be a tremendous help in grading papers, making copies, and fixing the myriad of things in need of repair at the Village. We resolve to cherish these precious moments of service together.

Thank you for your prayers for my healing. I am feeling much better! It has been a year since the operation and I can say I definitely feel better than a year ago! I thank God and I thank each of you for praying on my behalf.

I recently learned that I will be coming to the States this summer for deputation for my next two years of service and for training at Rafiki Home Office. Please let me know if I can schedule a time to share with you what God is doing in Africa. I am eager to speak with all of my supporters, so please indicate via e-mail when in late May/June I can meet with you. *Please pray for the plans to come together, as I want to visit several states.*

Your partnership and support are a tremendous blessing to me, and as I begin my second term of service, I humbly thank you for your interest. If you would like to continue supporting the work here you can use the form included with the letter to notify the Rafiki Home Office. Also, automatic withdrawal is now available; if you are interested in this, please call Len Hummel at the Home Office (210-244-2600) or e-mail him at lenh@rafiki-foundation.org.

May 2007 be blessed beyond your wildest dreams!

Much love,

Melissa Wudemann

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