

October 2018

Dear Friends,

***“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).***

This is my prayer for you, that our Lord Jesus Christ HIMSELF, and God our FATHER would establish you in every good work and word.

May He do so in your service to Him in Rafiki through praying, through hosting coffees for missionaries, for giving, for going and serving at a Rafiki Village. And may our Lord establish you in every good work and word—in your home, church, community and around the world!

Do pray this specifically for our missionaries on the field and for us here at the Home Office.

The Lord is enabling lots of good work going on around Rafiki.

- Our new website is up and running: Go visit and sign up! [www.rafikifoundation.org](http://www.rafikifoundation.org)  
It's been a 9-month process, so we are glad it is working!  
The new features of this website include the ability for donors to self-manage their account.  
It is also mobile friendly. And Giving is much easier to access.  
It is more connected to social media so that you can easily share content.
- Our new missionaries are going out to the field as we speak!  
Allison Grass has gone to Malawi;  
Wendy Kinka to Ethiopia;  
Rachel King departs in October for Kenya;  
Hayley Smith departs in October for Uganda;  
Laurie Eastup is hoping to go mid-October.  
Nine more are preparing to go soon! Jason Hubbard, Shakiyla Solomon, David and Lynn Kumpe, Richard and Karen Farrand, Shaina Ekstrom, Melissa Wiedemann, and Sarah Freeman.  
Check out our missionary section of our website and pray for them or support them specifically.  
<http://www.rafikifoundation.org/missionaries>
- We are preparing for our third working trip this year to Africa—October 15 – November 2.  
Pray for us. We will be conducting two Christian classical seminars for our church partners and school headmasters. We also will be visiting our Village in Ethiopia—one major area of concern is that our partner church schools cannot teach the Bible during the school day (the government prohibits this). Pray that this policy of the government will change! This impacts our ability to share the Rafiki Bible Study with them because they really won't be able to use it. God hears prayer and He wants His word to go out—so I know you will pray!
- Our September Letter should be in the mail soon updating you on the work. Two wonderful stories of impact.  
Pray that God provides \$900-\$1,000 scholarships for children in our Rafiki schools.
- We graduated eight students from the RICE program in Zambia—the first to graduate from RICE under one of our partner universities.



More good work is going on in each Village—join me in thanking God for His grace to allow us to see fruit from this work and pray for more—thirty, sixty, a hundredfold!

Your Friend in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen J. Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Elliott

Executive Director

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE ETHIOPIA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

The container has arrived and none of the items are missing! Although this has been a long wait, we can see God's sovereignty and timing. A kind friend of one of our day student's parents let us use his crane for moving the container from the flatbed to the ground—for free! And Michael, one of the visiting MiniMissionaries who has more than 40 years of experience working with cranes, was on-hand to guide our workers and the crane operator as they put the container in place.

#### **Praises:**

- We have started using the new school building and are still working on outfitting it with curtains, décor, and some last-minute repairs.
- We are thankful for the arrival of missionary Wendy Kinka who is helping in the school and with the ChildCare program for the next six months.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- peace and stability in Addis Ababa and the surrounding areas.
- provision of funds for a reliable vehicle for the missionaries to drive; currently we have two pick-up trucks, but they are in constant need of repair.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

During the next month we plan to move some of our older boys together into one cottage and to reassign the younger ones to new cottages. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions and for the Rafiki Mothers and children to accept the changes well.

#### **Praises:**

- Many of the older children have been extremely helpful in making preparations for the new school year.
- Praise God for Wendy Kinka's arrival to take over some of the ChildCare responsibilities from Amy.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- wisdom in training and supervising the Rafiki Mothers particularly in regard to proper supervision of children and relating to children as they become teenagers.
- a national person to become the assistant to the ChildCare Administrator.

### **Rafiki Education Program**

#### **Updates:**

- The new school year has begun (and so have our twenty-two new students in preprimary) and all the children were eager to return after having a two-month break.
- Our grades six and seven students are excited to be in our new junior secondary school (JSS) building and looking forward to using all the school supplies, curriculum, learning materials, and library books that were on the recently arrived container.
- Our primary school has a new teacher, Miss Desta, who teaches Afan Oromo and Amharic.

- We look forward to the October 1 arrival of the latest hire, Mr. Besufekad, who has experience teaching children with disabilities and who has a master's in teaching English. Thank God for answered prayers!

**Praises:**

- We are thankful for the provision of good teaching applicants.
- We are thankful that the issue regarding teaching Oromifaa has been resolved; starting this year, our preprimary-one class will learn in English and Oromifaa (instead of Amharic).

**Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- local parents whose children were not enrolled (for various reasons) into the Rafiki school this year will accept the decision and not try to cause trouble for Rafiki.
- all students and teachers to strive for excellence and grow in their love for God.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE GHANA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

- There is no shortage of work at Rafiki Village Ghana. The rain has been coming often and the grounds are green and lush. Our gardeners are finding it challenging to keep up with all the work.
- All of our college students have resumed their studies and we have two who will be graduating this fall.
- If you find yourself wondering how you can serve God in the mission field, please contact the Rafiki Home Office so you can apply to join Rafiki as a full-time or short-term missionary.

#### **Praises:**

- All the missionaries at the Village are enjoying good health.
- Our bank has recently made great strides in improving their customer service to Rafiki.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- plant management issues that are continuing to challenge us. Please pray for the travel plans for a short-term helper to come together quickly.
- full-time Missionaries or short-term MiniMissionaries, especially a plant manager, to serve at Rafiki Village Ghana.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

Our resident students have been learning how to study more effectively after a recent downward blip in their school performance. They are being encouraged to spend more time studying, in fact the whole Village has “quiet study hours” afterschool Monday through Thursday. We hope our young people will succeed in starting and/or reinforcing effective study habits which will benefit them now and into the future.

#### **Praises:**

- An auntie candidate has been hired and is beginning the training process.
- Several challenging young people have started to respond to advice, consequences of their actions, and biblical encouragement.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- all of our students to become more determined in their studies and motivated to achieve their goals.
- growth in the leadership abilities of our youth and their ability to stand up for what they know is right even if they face opposition from another resident youth.
- additional quality applicants for auntie and Rafiki Mother positions.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

- Term three has ended. This has been a season of colds and flu and everyone is hoping to recover over the break.
- Our primary school students are quite challenged since they are now all studying Twi from grade one. French begins in grade six and we are hoping to increase their exposure to it in the future. Both are required languages for national exams in junior high school. Grade nine received their Basic Education Exam results and they did pretty well. Grade twelve students have been taking the WASSCE (national) exams and finish the first week of October. We are hoping to see improved performance once all the grades are finalized for the third term.

### **Praises:**

- We are thankful to have teachers who are able to help us enhance the language classes for our primary students.
- We are thankful to see our waiting list grow as news of the Rafiki School spreads.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- our primary head teacher, Madam Patricia, who is still having some major health issues and has not yet returned to school.
- the WASSCE exam scores to reflect accurately the students' learning and for the students to learn the connection between preparation and performance.
- hearts surrendered to Christ and motivated to "give of their best to the Master."

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the accreditation of RICE and for the process to move forward quickly. Until we complete accreditation, we are not accepting new students and the program is on hold.
- a new RICE dean when we complete accreditation.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

The Anglican Widows have the balance of a batik fabric order to deliver as soon as they are able to arrange transportation out to the Village.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- favorable logistics for the Anglicans to make a delivery at the Village.
- a timely avenue to transport products to the Home Office in Florida.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE KENYA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

With assistance from another local NGO we are transitioning to organic farming, including composting and raised beds. We are also preparing a section of ground for a passion fruit orchard as a project for our graduates. With chickens to raise as well, the children are learning valuable self-supporting life skills.

#### **Praises:**

Carolyn Rose has finished up her one-year stay with us. She was a great blessing to our preschool classes and school libraries.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- Rachel King to be fully funded and to have peace and joy during this transition time.
- letters to government officials to produce machinery necessary to clear the land for a new soccer pitch and running track and funds to build it.
- The students to complete digging of 250 two-foot holes before the rains come so we can plant the passion fruit.
- discernment on how much to raise school fees in order to cover the increasing costs of running the schools.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

We have instituted a more specific evening study time for our residents in order to encourage better study time and learning. After the first week, the Rafiki Mothers reported that the children have been diligent and one teacher reported that a struggling student answered questions correctly for the first time!

#### **Praises:**

- The Lord provided a new Rafiki Mother and two Rafiki Mother substitutes that we really needed.
- We found a good music program for one of our graduates to attend for two months.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- our children to establish positive relationships with both peers and adults that will help them now and in the future.
- the provision of auntie/uncle relationships for ALL residents before Christmas.
- provision for extended families to be able to transport and care for the children over the December holidays.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

Our third and last term just began with one teacher out on maternity leave, another teacher announcing that she will be on maternity leave next term, and one teacher having hip surgery. (See Praises below.)

### **Praises:**

- We successfully launched eleven after-school clubs in addition to the existing piano lessons and choir. We have book clubs, drama clubs, and math clubs, as well as a dance club, chess club, wildlife club, art club, and a journalism club. During the first week of clubs the journalism club gave their first news presentation at morning assembly.
- God has graciously provided new teachers to cover two teachers on medical leave and another teacher who resigned. Thank you, Lord!

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- our teachers to apply effective training sessions into improved classroom practice.
- Form Four students to have helpful review lessons as upcoming national exams cover four years of material.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Updates:**

We are receiving more applicants who qualify for our two-year diploma course. Two who have university degrees want to receive our teacher training. One wants to be a missionary and sees teaching as the means to establish himself in unreached areas.

### **Praises:**

- The first six RICE students will graduate from PUEA with a Certificate in Classical Education and be officially certified by the Teachers Service Commission!
- During the Home Office October visit, a classical educator will come to present a half-day workshop for our partner churches and university staff hosted by Rafiki.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- One hundred attendees at the October 19 Classical Education Workshop.
- eighteen applicants for both the Certificate and Diploma courses October intake.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

We have had contacts from various Widows Program leaders about more work.

### **Praises:**

The women are interested in getting more work.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- discernment in how to develop the Widows Program in Kenya.
- time to organize the Widows Program materials and Bible study so that we are better able to encourage and support their work.
- good sales of widows product so that we can give new orders.



## **RAFIKI VILLAGE LIBERIA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

The RICE building construction is slowing with rain and lack of materials. We are still waiting on a shipment of roofing and other materials from Ghana.

#### **Praises:**

- All three Eaglemans are safely back.
- Volunteers from the Ritters' home church have been here and accomplished much work.
- We have seen God's work in the lives of some of our employees. It is very encouraging.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the building materials to arrive.
- government documents that still need to be finalized. Things are still moving slowly. Pray for completion of these needs. Some documents have been completed.
- the Eaglemans who will be running the Village as we will be short-staffed in October. Christie VanKuiken and the Ritters will be gone.
- New Missionaries Hannah and Felipe Vogel who will be arriving October 31.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

- We will be having a visitation program for all the extended family members of our children. The children will be performing a talent show for their families that will be coming to visit.
- We are about to finish the school year and many of our children have done very well with their studies this term, even achieving the honor roll.

#### **Praises:**

- We are thankful that everyone has stayed healthy for the most part, especially since it is the rainy season and malaria is prevalent around this time.
- We are thankful that we have had several good families volunteer to take in the children who do not have anyone and accept them into their own family, during school breaks.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- safety for the children as they go out to visit their extended families. Please pray for them to make smart decisions. Pray for peace and comfort for the children who will stay at Rafiki while others go out to visit with their families. Pray for the children to be a good influence in their communities and have opportunities to share Christ.
- the students to focus and do well on their exams as the school term finishes.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

We are thankful for the team from the Ritters' home church. They worked to better organize the library and painted the junior secondary school along with many other things.

### **Praises:**

- We are thankful for the students who are showing improvement in their studies.
- We are thankful for the new books that have been shipped here and are on the way. Our students love to read and our library needs more books.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- Rev. Fong Gorgboyee (head teacher) and the staff as Sherri Ritter is gone for the end of term three and the beginning of term four.
- our staff as they have had many personal tragedies lately.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Praises:**

- We are thankful for God's faithfulness to bring us to the end of another term.
- We are thankful for the excellent math teaching by short-term missionary, Bly Bylsma, which was so helpful to the students this term.
- Losay has completed a year as assistant to the RICE dean and has been such a help. He will be going back into the RICE program in October.
- The fourth quarter curriculum arrived early!

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- new assistants for RICE who will quickly learn their duties.
- short-term help for fourth quarter 2018.
- long-term help.
- improved economy as students struggle to provide for their needs.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE MALAWI**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

The dry season is always challenging here in Malawi\ as we monitor how much water we have, how often we can water our gardens, and so on. Thankfully, with our reclaiming of the laundry and kitchen water, our fruit orchard is thriving. The children also suffer from the seasonal dry air and dust, but otherwise are doing well.

#### **Praises:**

- We are thankful for Allison Grass who has fit in well and is doing an excellent job as the new RICE Dean.
- We praise God for the small amount of rain we did get, which is almost unheard of but has given us some green grass to enjoy and relief to our gardens.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- someone to be here when Cindy and Larry Renner are gone for five weeks.
- protection over the Village and Lauralea Harriott and Allison Grass during the Renners' absence.
- granting positive answers to our TEP (temporary employee permits), which have been in process for one to two years and which recently came back as a rejection for Larry's.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

- Our boys' residence parents have resigned and will be leaving at the end of the third school term. We are thankful to have already found a young couple to replace them.
- No one has yet been found to fill in for the Renners when they go on leave in October/November.

#### **Praises:**

- We are thankful that this term was fairly quiet with only a few minor episodes of bad behavior.
- We praise God for NO new episodes of malaria this month!

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- several of our children who continue to experience vague physical symptoms such as headaches, tummy aches, enlarged lymph nodes, etc. Some of it is allergy related due to all the dust during dry season. Please pray for the other issues to resolve quickly.
- the Renners' and Lauralea's TEPs to be approved. Larry's has been formally rejected with no explanation and is currently being appealed.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

- We have just finished term three and we heard from our junior secondary students at recitation.
- Several of our teachers in primary were posted to government schools but we were able to have a good hand-off to new teachers who are settling in well.

### **Praises:**

We selected eighteen three-year-olds to begin preprimary one in January.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the new teachers to use the classical methods they've learned and see the good in the differences we have from other schools.
- a good conclusion to our school year as we start term four.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Updates:**

- The students have been working hard to finish their courses well and have done a wonderful job with their peer teaching and various presentations this past week. They are looking forward to a well-deserved break so they can gear up for the start of term four in early October.
- We are especially excited at the prospect of starting an art class as part of our RICE curriculum next term.

### **Praises:**

- We are thankful that all of our students are doing well in their courses, and are on track to move on to the next level in the RICE program next term.
- Bill Wood was a huge encouragement to the RICE program during a time of transition, and was a great help to Allison as she transitioned into her role as RICE Dean.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- our Rafiki Mothers who will begin the RICE program part time next term. Please pray for them to be diligent and successful in both their mother duties and in their RICE courses.
- students to grow in their critical thinking skills and apply what they are learning in their courses to their teaching.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

The widows are still eager to meet for Bible study but are delaying the work on the Home Office order.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

the widows to be willing to complete their Home Office order. They are meeting for Bible study regularly but not working.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE NIGERIA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

- The temperature is beginning to rise and the hills are covered with the yellow flowers which announce that dry season is coming.
- Preparations are underway to prepare our university students for the start of the new 2018-2019 year. We will double the number at university this year and have the potential to double that number again in 2020!

#### **Praises:**

- We are thankful that the conversion of several empty cottages to classrooms is well underway.
- We praise God for a well-earned break from school and job routines.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- safety and renewal for students and staff.
- Doug Keopke, our Plant Manager, who has been asked to take a short-term trip to Ghana to help with solutions to complex plant management issues. Please pray for the trip details and protection of equipment at the Nigeria Village.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

God provided fifty baby chicks to be cared for by our older boys. He also gave us fifty one-inch-long tilapia fingerlings to grow and a bumper crop of carrots, potatoes, beans, and other fresh produce which were picked and taken to the Rafiki kitchen. We thank God for providing an abundance of nutritious food.

#### **Praises:**

- Our children will soon be going to extended family during their school break. We are praying the lessons learned during these home visits will bear good fruit in their minds, hearts, and lives.
- Our Home Office recently visited and made progress on getting the teachers college accredited through a partner Christian university in Nigeria. Good news for our children who desire to become teachers!

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- adequate funds to cover all expenses for the twenty-three children in university or vocational school.
- continued success of the children with the fish and chickens.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

- We are grateful as we have opened a new remodeled cottage for kindergarten that is quite beautiful.
- We are losing three of our junior secondary-three students as they will be allowed to complete their secondary education at a technical secondary school. Though sorrowful because they are going, we are rejoicing as this is a good opportunity for them and much better suited to their learning needs.

### **Praises:**

- We are praising God that we see improvement in the noise levels at the gate before school and in the dining hall at lunch and breakfast.
- Teachers are working hard to teach engaging lessons that lead the students to be discoverers of the knowledge being taught.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- formal observations and the conferences which will have to be held next term due to the headmaster's health; pray for complete recovery of the back issues that have her sidelined.
- the attitude of the senior secondary three students who feel they are allowed to circumvent the rules because of their status as seniors.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Updates:**

- Discussions are moving ahead with the University of Mkar to affiliate with RICE Nigeria.
- Students and teacher are ready for the three-week break that begins soon.

### **Praises:**

- Another 144 applicants came to apply for the thirty-six positions we will have in January.
- We are thankful for the assistance of our music dean and also a senior RICE student who loves math.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- God's choice of students to come to the next cohort beginning in January.
- wisdom for the Home Office to determine how we are to proceed with the request to share RICE with partner denominations' teacher training institutions.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

A new order from the Home Office has been received and is in the pricing process. New products are also being produced.

### **Praises:**

- A new order was sent to the women!
- New products are replicated with care.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- a fair estimate of the cost for the new order.
- quality products to be produced.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE RWANDA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

Since first arriving in Rwanda in 2010, we have had our first “green” September! Normally this month is dry and everything is brown but this year God has provided periodic small rains which have kept the grass green, the trees full of leaves, and the air smelling fresh.

#### **Praises:**

- We have a good start on the construction of our senior secondary school. The footings and foundation walls are in and the slabs are ready to be poured.
- After waiting nearly two years, we have received final approval and certification of our secondary school from the Rwanda Ministry of Education.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the construction workers to perform with excellence and integrity while building our new school buildings.
- God’s continued provision of dedicated men and women to serve Him here in Africa with Rafiki.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

- Another group of our children will be reassigned to new families at the end of this school term bringing the number of residents down to 42. Praise to God that all of these children will remain in Rafiki’s school.
- Our youth watched a movie about prayer and many have committed themselves to faithful prayer.

#### **Praises:**

- All of the children and staff are healthy with the latest bouts of colds and allergies behind us.
- One of our children’s sponsors recently visited and brought an outside game. This has captured the hearts of the youth, Rafiki Mothers, and the school. What a blessing!

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- our resident boys to adjust as once again they have been rearranged due to some of them moving to new families and one of our Rafiki Mother’s departure to attend university.
- our children to develop and cultivate the habit of searching the scriptures and praying, trusting God to bring His answers and resolutions.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

- When the teachers were asked if the day students' faith has made an impact in their homes and communities, the room erupted with amazing testimonies (some of which are included in the praises).
- This week marks the end of term three! Rejoice with us!

### **Praises:**

- Three-year-old Elera is met by her friends after school. She gathers them together and conducts a Bible study, English lesson, and math class.
- Rafiki students sing hymns on the mini-bus coming to school every morning. Students from other schools quietly listen and appreciate the truths they are spreading. Thank you for praying—we know you appreciate hearing about the fruit of your prayers.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

Donatha and Marie Jeanne to study and know the words, phonemes, idioms and scrambled words in preparation for the Intercontinental Spelling Bee in Dubai the first week of October. Please pray for travel safety and for them to represent Rwanda with confidence and poise, giving glory to God.



# **RAFIKI VILLAGE TANZANIA**

## **Rafiki Village**

### **Updates:**

We are approaching the end of our study of the Book of Romans which we began all the way back in January. Through the Rafiki Bible Study, we've been guided through such great doctrines as God's sovereignty, justification by grace alone through faith, dying to sin, and our hope for glory. These last chapters have given us much food for thought about how we should live in view of these truths. It's been a time of great discussion all the way from our young students to our Rafiki Mothers' Bible study.

### **Praises:**

- We thank God for His living and active Word at work in us.
- Much-needed new office space has been created which will improve communication among missionary and national staff across programs.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- clear guidance for Village Administrator Phil Nickels as he interacts with many government ministries.
- safety for national employees as they travel to and from work each day.

## **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

### **Updates:**

The warm weather has returned, and the children in the cottages are working in their gardens to turn sunshine and seeds into food for the Village. A faithful borehole and well-designed water system make this possible even in the dry season.

### **Praises:**

- We are thankful for the abundance of clean water that more than meets our needs.
- The children are cheerful and capable in their daily chores.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the Holy Spirit to use the lessons in our Romans Bible study to shape the children into true disciples of Christ.
- God to encourage the children's gardening efforts with successful harvests.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Updates:**

Construction has begun on three dedicated science labs. Our contractor and all the crew are working hard to complete them well before the end of the year.

### **Praises:**

- District and regional officials visited our Village recently and were impressed with our work and facilities.
- Grade level seven students took their national exams the first week of September and felt that they had been well-prepared by their teachers.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- grade seven students to continue to work diligently, even though their exams are behind them.
- wisdom in preparing fruitful teacher training sessions based on The Seven Laws of Teaching.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Updates:**

RICE students are working hard with good results. They've been treated to renewed music instruction as a musician MiniMissionary has arrived to serve for three months.

### **Praises:**

- Students take joy in worshipping through the singing of hymns at the beginning of each school day.
- Math and writing skills are improving with good instruction.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- approval of our registration as a teachers' college.
- God to provide for the RICE students' financial needs so that they can continue their course of study.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

Many women are finishing their maize harvests. With the crops safely in, they will be ready to start working on another order of beautiful products.

### **Praises:**

- A variety of new beaded earrings have been delivered to the Rafiki Exchange.
- God has provided for the women and their families.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- a successful launch of the new Rafiki website.
- God to use sales of the widows products to raise awareness of the good work He's doing in Africa through Rafiki.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE UGANDA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

God has truly watched over and led the Village from day to day. As we write, we enter the final week of term three for RICE and school. We are encouraged by the steadfastness and camaraderie of the thirteen RICE students in pursuing Christian classical training to be the pioneer educators for Uganda, the 208 Rafiki students and their twenty-eight-member faculty pushing onwards for wholesome education with God in the center, and the remaining twenty-five national workers all supporting the five Rafiki programs here.

#### **Praises:**

- We celebrate the huge harvest of 898 kilos of corn which provided 510 kilos (1,124 lbs) of flour for consumption and the left over maize bran for poultry feed. The Rafiki families each carried ten kilos (twenty-two lbs) of the flour as tithe to their respective churches.
- The residents and staff are all learning very practical lessons on love and conflict from the Romans Bible study.
- A new preschool building is ready for a second stream of preschoolers following the conversion of one vacant cottage. More young lives will be taught and trained Christian classically!

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- wisdom and the availability of skilled persons to handle necessary maintenance and repairs at the Village.
- continuing provision of sponsors and donors to the Education Fund, and to sponsorship of Rafiki residents.
- clarity and unity in proposing a reasonable increase to school registration fees for 2019.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

Nearly sixty residents will spend their school term three holidays with relatives and partner church families. Our residents look forward to and enjoy this time away from the Village because they get to meet new people and make more friends. They also learn about life beyond Rafiki and have plenty of opportunities to use their knowledge of the Bible to practice godliness and holiness in a different environment. Our Rafiki Mothers are also able to take their breaks or use the time for enrichment activities at the Village.

#### **Praises:**

- Jovan's right toe surgery was successfully completed and he is walking normally.
- Our three grade level twelve students have had a restful month-long break. They volunteered as teachers' assistants in our preschool. They resumed school on September 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Augustine's College, Wakiso because they are seeking an advanced level diploma, and Rafiki does not yet have this grade level.
- The second planting season for the year has started and all Rafiki families are working well together.

**Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the good health and well-being of all the Rafiki residents when they are away at the homes of their relatives and church families.
- many Rafiki residents who are still undecided in their decision to confess Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for their questions and doubts to be definitively cleared up by the Holy Spirit in the conversations with them.
- God to provide the two-month internship arrangement (December 2018 – January 2019) for Jovan in order to fulfil his Certificate in Catering and Hotel Management. The internship must be in a busy hotel with full facilities and services.

**Rafiki Education Program****Updates:**

Term three ended with a school-wide field day, where all students, from preprimary to senior secondary, joined together into house teams to compete in a series of games. It was a unifying and enjoyable time! Also enjoyed at the close of the term: a spelling bee, recitation, and parent-teacher conference. The students and teachers are grateful for the current school break before closing the year with term four.

**Praises:**

- The upper school teachers are improving in their assessment practices.
- Two new teachers and a highly-qualified science consultant joined our faculty.

**Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the teachers to use assessments to guide their instruction pace.
- the grade level eleven students to complete the Uganda Certificate of Education exams with peace, integrity, clear minds, perseverance, and success.

**Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program****Updates:**

Enrollment has held steady and all student work for the term has been submitted.

**Praises:**

- All students are thoroughly enjoying the very practical lessons from Romans chapters thirteen to fifteen.
- The camaraderie of students in their learning process encourages acting RICE Dean Patti Lafage.
- The fact and knowledge that many prayer partners are remembering this RICE group leads to our praise and thanks to God.

**Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- God to provide means for each and every RICE student to continue in the program.
- God's perfect timing of accreditation of the Uganda RICE program.

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

The Home office is working on new sales outlets for the widows' products.

### **Praises:**

We are thankful for the opportunity to remain in touch to encourage the widows and their leaders during this lull in the product order period.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the Uganda widows to research new local markets to further increase their economic situation and take increased responsibility for their livelihood.
- USA customers to appreciate the new sales outlets and see the value in the women's products.

## **RAFIKI VILLAGE ZAMBIA**

### **Rafiki Village**

#### **Updates:**

- It is dry season, but the Rafiki Mothers and children are able to work in their gardens and raise vegetables for the kitchen and to sell to staff as they leave work. God has blessed us with a good water supply which enables good irrigation of the gardens.
- The senior secondary school has been completed and work has begun to outfit the building with furniture and accessories.
- The junior secondary school has a new coat of paint and is looking good.
- Two industrial washing machines have been repaired and are left with just a little fine tuning.

#### **Praises:**

- RICE students and Rafiki school students have been coming and going from the Village each day this term without incident.
- God has provided for every need of each student, staff member, and missionary.
- His word is being read and heard and meditated on as all gather for either devotion time or Bible lesson.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- continued protection as many are traveling dangerous roads.
- lives to continue to be changed, transformed, and molded by God's Word and for us to live in peace and harmony, reflecting God's love.

### **Rafiki ChildCare Program**

#### **Updates:**

- Children are challenging rules and authority, but missionaries and staff are continuing to train using the wisdom of God's Word and the Rafiki policies and procedures.
- The children's extended families came to visit their children the day after school closed on September 22.

#### **Praises:**

- We are thankful for short-term missionaries, Susan Peoples and Sarah-Anne Khoo, who have been a great encouragement to the missionaries and the Rafiki Mothers and children.
- Many of our children are serious and determined to do their best to receive the best education they can.

#### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- protection from allergies and germs that are causing children and staff alike to suffer.
- endurance and perseverance for the children as they endeavor to learn at Rafiki school.

## **Rafiki Education Program**

### **Praises:**

- We thank God for the Rafiki Bible Study and its clear teaching from Romans.
- We thank God for two new teachers at the upper school.
- We thank God for general good health and safety of students and teachers.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- the Holy Spirit to convict and bring to salvation each student, and that each student and teacher would have a growing love for God's word.
- our students in grades seven and nine to be extra diligent and focused as they take the national exams which began September 24, and for God to grant success in passing for each student in each subject.

## **Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program**

### **Praises:**

We praise God for the RICE graduates that are preparing to go out.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- all students to get their necessary documents to start teaching right away.
- perseverance of the students through finals week.
- continued professional and spiritual growth for the RICE students

## **Rafiki Widows Program**

### **Updates:**

Karen Farrand will be coming in January 2019 to head up the Widows Program in Zambia.

### **Praises:**

The Reformed Church in Zambia's Skills Training Center is very interested in working with Rafiki to help train widows.

### **Prayer Requests—Please pray for:**

- Karen's preparation for her and her husband, Richard's, move to Zambia.
- the Lord to pave the way for the Rafiki Widows Program to move forward.