

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

December 2019

Dear Friends,

Isn't it wonderful to know that we belong to a heavenly Father that not only *hears* but *responds* to prayer—and in ways we cannot imagine!

As you pray for Rafiki this month, remember to also do so **with thanksgiving** for we have many answers to prayer this year as in every year.

We here at the Home Office are thankful for our partners in ministry, our missionaries who serve so faithfully, our national staff, and **you!**

You faithfully pray every month—and not just once a month but regularly. What a gift!

We are also grateful that God by His grace is **bearing fruit in this work.**

Just this year we have seen Rafiki children graduate from university, RICE students graduate as teachers, children coming to know the Lord, cottages converted to classrooms, hundreds more students in our schools, God's provision of new missionaries for the field and for the resources to operate our Villages. In addition, we have new groups starting up using the Rafiki Bible Study here in the USA.

We saw God work in the first Classical Christian conference in Kenya this November where 300 were in attendance and church partners were represented from 7 of our 10 countries! God truly answered prayers for this conference.

Many more answers to prayer for which you can give thanks are included in the RPG.

During this month, please pray specifically for our Rafiki Village in Malawi.

For the past year we have had one full-time missionary on site and have been able to staff the Village with a number of very helpful short-term missionaries.

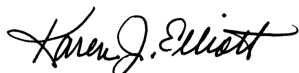
We are grateful to God for those who have gone out to Malawi this year to serve—some for months, others for weeks, but all have been very helpful.

However, we are asking God for two seasoned couples to go and serve at the Village and we believe God is raising them up. This is a very active Village with a large school and orphanage and a RICE program that is nearing accreditation. Join us in praying for those two couples to go and serve SOON. Perhaps God might give you the opportunity to serve in Malawi!

God hears and He responds in ways we cannot even think or imagine.

I pray each of you have a very blessed Thanksgiving.

Your “Rafiki”



Karen Elliott

Executive Director

RAFIKI VILLAGE ETHIOPIA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- The dry season is fast upon us and so is harvest time for the local teff, wheat, and chick-pea farmers! Using the same methods that have been used for hundreds, even thousands of years, the farmers thresh the grains and separate the chaff. When we witness these pastoral scenes and we consider some of the troubles this country faces, we are reminded of what Psalm 1 teaches us.

Praises:

- The project agreement is written, and we still await its approval.
- Amy's work permit and residence permit were both renewed with relative ease!

Please Requests—Please pray for:

- the new project agreement to be approved in a timely manner as being able to purchase a new vehicle is dependent on the agreement being approved
- Tigist and Girum and their family to be able to raise enough support to be on the field early next year.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- Despite being short-staffed, our Rafiki Mothers have worked wonderfully well together in unity and love. This is very important, especially as many of our children are becoming teenagers and require special understanding and new methods of parenting.

Praises:

- Praise God for general good health of the Rafiki Mothers and children.
- We are thankful for our excellent kitchen manager, Selam, who works tirelessly for the benefit of her Rafiki "family."

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- creativity, patience, wisdom, love, and joy for the Rafiki Mothers as they parent teenagers.
- God to soon provide two new Rafiki Mothers who are spiritually mature, wise, fluent in English, and called to serve here.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- Amy and two of her head teachers, Fiseha and Zemen, traveled to Nairobi in November for the wonderfully enriching and informative The New Old Way Conference on Christian Classical Education in Africa. Inspired, both Zemen and Fiseha eagerly shared with their fellow Rafiki teachers many practical and important ideas they learned during the conference. We are hopeful this knowledge and enthusiasm will have a powerful impact on our school and students in the coming years.

Praises:

- Supervisory visits from local education officers have been largely positive.
- Many students love to learn and are eager to come to school every day.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- wisdom, stamina, and patience for Amy as she trains teachers as well as teaches several classes a day.
- preprimary teachers to persevere in speaking English properly and throughout the day with their students.
- Christian schools in Ethiopia to be allowed by the government to teach the Bible in school.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- this program to get started.

Rafiki Widows Program

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- this program to get started.

RAFIKI VILLAGE GHANA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- Melissa Wiedeman and two of the Rafiki teachers traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for The New Old Way Conference on Christian Classical Education in Africa which was hosted by the Presbyterian University of East Africa and Rafiki Foundation. Melissa and the teachers were quite inspired by the conference as was the Director of Education for the Methodist Church of Ghana, Rev. Dannyame. The Methodist Church of Ghana sent Rev. Dannyame to the conference.

Praises:

- We are thankful for the safe travel for all who attended the conference in Nairobi.
- We are thankful for our Lord's providential care for the Rafiki children wherever they may be; away at college, attending other schools, or working.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- our plant management challenges. We need wisdom in how to best prioritize and accomplish the projects we have. Also, please pray for our vehicles not to break down.
- a Christmas season that is holy, peaceful, and meaningful to all of our staff, children, and students.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- Our residents' days are full with school, homework, chores, playing football (soccer), preparing for graduation (a few will sing and dance), haircuts, and enjoying life at the beautiful Rafiki Village.

Praises:

- We celebrated our third, and final, university graduation for this year. All three new graduates are settling in their national service jobs, and they are enjoying the work they've been assigned to.
- Several students pursuing vocational education outside of Rafiki are adjusting well.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- a joyous senior secondary school graduation early in December, and a positive adjustment as graduates are reunified with their relatives.
- improving relationships with Rafiki parents and the young people in their houses.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- We are happy to report that the ceremony for our sixth graduating class from Rafiki Christian Classical Senior High School will be on December 7.

Praises:

- We are thankful for the addition of a preschool teacher.
- We have many students applying to begin their education at Rafiki in January 2020.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to guide our selection process for the students seeking to join our school.
- those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Praises:

- The paperwork for the accreditation is in process.
- We are thankful for the ongoing help from Wisconsin International University College in the accreditation process.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- accreditation to be completed by the end of the year.
- our Lord to provide students for RICE once it is accredited.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- The program is on hold as the widows have fulfilled their orders and we await more full-time missionary help.

Praises:

- We thank God for the help this program has been for women over the years.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- current Ghana products to sell through the Rafiki stores (brick and mortar as well as online).
- more full-time missionaries so we can continue and strengthen our Rafiki Widows Program in Ghana.

RAFIKI VILLAGE KENYA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- It wasn't the "Great Awakening", but one seasoned pastor with the Africa Inland Church whispered to me after the first day of the conference, "A sleeping giant is being awakened." Such was the sentiment of many of the 300+ participants of Kenya's (possibly Africa's) first Christian Classical Education Conference held in Nairobi. The Kenya and Home Office staff worked seamlessly to maximize the effectiveness of our five guest speakers. It also strengthened our partner university relationship.

Praises:

- Three partner churches have requested to hire RICE graduates for their preschools. These schools will become our first pilot schools.
- Praise God for overseeing all housing, health of speakers, transportation, registration, catering, weather, and logistical details to make for a very well-run and engaging conference.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to raise up an army of stakeholders in Kenya to help us gain KICD approval of our preschool – grade nine curriculum.
- missionaries, national teachers, and leaders from partner universities in the other nine Rafiki countries who attended the conference to have strength, wisdom, and favor in establishing Christian classical education in their countries.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- Since the resident children will be gone to visit their relatives for Christmas, we are doing Advent devotions together this month.

Praises:

- Twelve more of our residents will be graduating from school this year and they seem to be having a clearer sense of God's direction as the time draws nearer.
- Our residents have been of great help this month as we seek to make (continual) improvements around the Village.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God's great physical, spiritual, and emotional protection over the children as they go on homestay in December.
- the children to develop strong bonds as they spend time with relatives and surrogate families. Please pray for them to understand how to live outside of the Rafiki community.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- All thirty of our teachers and six upper-level RICE students served with excellence as conference volunteers. They attended a preconference seminar on Socratic teaching conducted by Ravi Jain.

Praises:

- Teachers gathered for two days after the conference overflowing with insights and desires for what we want our school to be in 2020. We even wrote our own definition of Christian classical education.
- Grade eight successfully completed their national exams. Results will be out this week. Grade twelve students have started their exams and are feeling well-prepared.
- We have added nearly fifty new students to our enrollment and have a waiting list in preschool.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- grade twelve student exam scores to allow students to enter university or diploma courses.
- teachers to prepare with a new frame of mind for the 2020 school year. Many are coming in on their own time or have taken material home to read over the break.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Updates:

- A school plans to send three of their teachers to study at RICE in exchange for three RICE graduates to take their classes for a year! Graduates are in demand!

Praises:

- We are thankful the students are engaging with the curriculum and each other.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the church to send thirty-six new students for a new cohort of certificate and diploma courses.
- the PUEA Senate to approve our two-year diploma course.
- a local church to build simple housing for RICE students who come from up country.
- students to learn to love their craft, master the content, and do all things creatively.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- We have had some new products come in and were able to ship some back to the Home Office.

Praises:

- Our newest widows group is growing in skill as they carve and paint gourds. They have been eagerly and appreciatively using the Rafiki Bible Study.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- new product ideas for our various groups in 2020.
- more of the groups to use the Rafiki Bible Study consistently.

RAFIKI VILLAGE LIBERIA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- “Pressing on toward the goal of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,” we continue in Liberia to proclaim God’s Word to our staff, students, and resident children. We face daily challenges but are reminded that God is at work in all things. We rejoice in the progress we see in the lives of those in which we invest.
- Our Village is under constant repair as we strive to maintain it in a tropical environment where sea salt, rain, and humidity take their toll. Currently we are getting new sidewalks and working to better equip the RICE building for full effective use.

Praises:

- We are thankful for our hard-working staff who are truly grateful for what God provides for them through Rafiki.
- We praise God for His provision and for the people like you who continuously lift us up in prayer and support.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the country of Liberia; the government and people who are suffering due to the economy. Please pray for the people to take 2 Chronicles 7:14 to heart and seek God for their solutions.
- the missionaries to have the health, endurance, and wisdom to represent Christ well in this place.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- We had a wonderful Liberian Thanksgiving full of yummy food and a football movie (like the typical American Thanksgiving tradition).
- The children will be working hard to finish out the term and school year with their very best grades and attitudes.

Praises:

- We were thankful to have a short-term missionary come to help our children who have learning disabilities. He was able to train our Rafiki Mothers and teachers as well as give our children some tools to help them with their lessons. His input will really help improve the lives of our children who struggle.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the hearts and attitudes of our children: that they grow in wisdom, humility, and integrity.
- the strength and endurance of our Rafiki Mothers who are helping us raise these children.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- Halfway through the last term of the year we have been blessed to have a short-term missionary with special education experience to come in and advise us regarding some of our preprimary children with learning difficulties.
- Looking back over the school year it is always a joy to see the progress students have made. As we observed the fifth grade having a debate last week, we were reminded of how much students are learning about how to think critically and express themselves.
- We have hired a new junior secondary school principal and he is settling into the responsibilities well.
- Our junior secondary school students are preparing a musical play for Christmas and we are planning special activities for the end of school that involve all grade levels working together toward a fun and creative celebration.

Praises:

- We praise God that in the midst of our day-to-day ups and downs we see “light” and “salt” among us.
- We thank God for the gift of learning.
- We praise God for providing a qualified school principal to work with our junior secondary school staff and students.
- We are thankful to see our junior secondary students take an interest in learning to read and sing music.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- our preprimary teachers to learn to teach more creatively and find joy in the process.
- our preprimary students to have hearts that desire to please God and a recognition of how that reflects in their daily activities.
- our junior secondary students to have strength of character and be determined to live and learn with integrity.
- wisdom in preparing for the next school year as we begin our senior secondary school.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Praises:

- We are thankful for mission-minded discussions during the Rafiki Bible Study.
- We are thankful for a fruitful time at the Christian Classical Education Conference in Kenya. Teaching was practical and demonstrated methods to make our classrooms more classical.

Prayer Request—Please pray for:

- God to provide positions for every teacher who graduates from our program.
- mastery of content so that students become excellent teachers.
- the economy of Liberia to improve. Students struggle for transportation to come each day.
- students to fill up a new 1A class in January.

Rafiki Widows Program

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- this program to get started.

RAFIKI VILLAGE MALAWI

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- We count our blessings in 2019—ninety-four thriving residents nurtured in God’s Word, 287 students from pre-kindergarten to grade level twelve, four RICE graduates teaching in church schools, fourteen RICE teachers in training, sixty-six faithful national staff, a stream of fifteen short-term volunteers enable all five Rafiki programs to operate, two shipments reached us from the Home Office, RICE accreditation almost done, the plant maintenance department attended to many critical infrastructure needs, partner church relationships strengthened, and the Home Office visit encouraged and guided us. We completed our Rafiki Bible Study (RBS) in the Psalms, First and Second Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. We are now in First Peter. Two church partner leaders together with three head teachers from Rafiki School Malawi participated in The New Old Way Conference on Christian Classical Education in Nairobi, Kenya.

Praises:

- When we discovered that the taps were dry, God protected the borehole pump and limited the damage to only leaking pipes.
- When thieves broke in to steal, God kept the laptops out of their sight.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- two couples to be sent to serve as full-time missionaries in 2020.
- full funding for critical plant projects and contributions towards the education of the students and teacher training.
- protection from evil and any attempt to destroy the Village and personnel.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- The residents were pleased to return from their dental check-ups with great approval from the dentist.
- During October and November, our volleyball players enjoyed several district, regional, and national level competitive games.
- Sixteen-year old Esther Phiri achieved the Most Promising Young and Upcoming Player Medal.

Praises:

- Rafiki Mothers are assuming more and more responsibility to encourage their children’s ability to communicate with all people.
- We see marked improvement in the heart attitudes of the young men in the residence hall.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- a mature couple and one woman to be appointed and trained to serve as resident hall parents and Rafiki Mother.
- residents to pay greater attention to growing their relationship with Jesus Christ and to fight the temptations of the world.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- Eighteen grade level twelve students had their photographs taken, fingers printed, and identity cards processed in preparation for their 2020 national tests.
- With the recent arrival of the Home Office shipment, we now have ALL the Rafiki curriculum needed for school.

Praises:

- We are mid-way into term four and grateful for the strength and multitude of resources God has made available to teach Christianly and classically to 287 students.
- Parents and guardians of day students have appreciated the Home Discussion Page for their family Bible study.
- Parents and guardians interacted with the school administration to understand the changes in the 2019/2020 academic calendar and they have accepted it.

Prayer Request—Please pray for:

- successful hire of qualified teachers for these classes—biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and Chichewa (the national language).
- students to adopt the right attitude towards their education, to master and to enjoy learning.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Updates:

- Fourteen students in three cohorts are learning joyfully and always grateful for the training God has given them here with RICE Malawi.
- Former Rafiki missionaries, Judy and Tom Cosby and their son, Michael, came at just the right time to aid in necessary administrative support—installation of a new Canon printer sent from the Home Office and manufacturing a secure storage facility for the laptops.

Praises:

- The RICE students were thrilled to receive the announcement from the UNILIA graduation event on October 12 that the RICE-UNILIA Mzuzu campus shall be inaugurated in 2020.
- Linda Lim and Jerri Lotze were Gods' gift to the RICE program. They poured themselves into enriching the students spiritually and academically.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the Level 1D and 2D students in teaching practicum to remain focused and committed to meet all the required assignments with steadfastness and diligence.
- God's preparation of Kevin French who will serve as interim RICE dean till the end of term four.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- Bertha Ng'oma, our widows program coordinator, visited with three groups of women to encourage them in making samples of gift tags using "kitenge" (colorful African fabric). They are also eager for more RBS material.

Praises:

- A new product idea from Home Office has been brought to the women to work on.
- The women are patiently trying their best in order to receive a product order.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the women to persevere in getting the right quality of product sample to attract an order.
- Bertha to be encouraged as she visits to support the widows in their Bible study.

RAFIKI VILLAGE NIGERIA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- Overall Rafiki school students are showing marked progress in most subjects, especially math.
- All remodeling should be finished for the January 2020 school year.

Praises:

- We are thankful for the healthy return of our ChildCare Administrator.
- We received great training at the Christian Classical Education Conference in Kenya.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- peace to continue as we enter the Advent season and many are experiencing financial challenges.
- safety and joyful home visits for our Rafiki children who will be joining extended families for the break.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Praises:

- Bicycles were awarded to cottages where students made honor role.
- We were able to reassign our Rafiki Mothers to other jobs in the Village due to the increase in the number of resident orphans who have left for university or other educational pursuits.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- our nineteen graduates who still await placement at the University of Jos.
- great home visits by our students.

Rafiki Education Program

Praises:

- Our students have all passed the Nigerian entrance exam for high school.
- We have good response by the teachers to our ongoing in-service training.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- all students to finish the year well.
- wisdom for the headmaster as new staffing is evaluated.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Praises:

- The RICE students are enjoying their student observation/teaching.
- Most students are successfully completing their course work.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- more qualified applicants for our RICE Program. We have a new intake of students in March.
- the students to learn to love to teach and to help students grow in love for subjects.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- After some delays, the order from the Home Office is in process of shipping!!!

Praises:

- We are seeing great sewing skills and an increased awareness of color combinations.
- We are thankful for the opportunity to help these women to provide for their families

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- additional orders to come in to keep the women busy.

RAFIKI VILLAGE RWANDA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- This has been forecast to be one of the wettest years on record in Rwanda and we have been preparing appropriately. Living on a steep sidehill necessitates much road work to keep water flow from taking the road with it!

Praises:

- The doors on our new school are all installed and varnished and final work and painting will commence shortly.
- The new trees and shrubs planted near our sports court and football field are growing wonderfully.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the lives of our children and staff to be positively changed by the daily study of God's Word.
- the growth of abilities of our national staff so that more of the day-to-day work can be transferred to their responsibility.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- God has supplied excellent candidates to replace some of our Rafiki Mothers who have moved on to a new phase of their lives.

Praises:

- One of our girls who has been receiving some counselling is doing very well and is no longer in need of assistance.
- God provided good Rafiki Mother candidates to replace two mothers who left.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- new Rafiki Mother Paulinah as she learns her role and for her and the boys in Ephesians cottage to bond together as a family.
- one of our girls who has low self-esteem to find her worth in Christ and work hard in school.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- We thank God for the opportunity to have attended the Conference on Christian Classical Education in Kenya. Vicky Koch, Primary Principal Bonheur, and Secondary Principal Placide received excellent training and had the joy of meeting missionaries and national teachers from all ten Rafiki Villages.

Praises:

- During art class in grade eight, one student asked the others, "Which would you rather have? A very rich family that would give you whatever you wanted, but you didn't know Jesus; or living at Rafiki and going to school here?" Teacher Allison held her breath, wondering what the outcome would be. They all chimed in, "That's easy—living here at Rafiki."

- God continues to supply short-term missionaries who are providing much-needed assistance in the school by tutoring students in need of special help.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- our students who are questioning their faith to receive full assurance of their salvation, and for our students to reflect godly character traits and integrity.
- our secondary students who are struggling academically. Please pray for them to commit to studying nightly, developing a love for wisdom, so they will be promoted at the end of this term: grade eight—Eliya, Centia, Diane, and Janvier; grade seven—Hope U., Medi, Valante, Laticia, Beбето, and Olivier

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- this program to get started.

Rafiki Widows Program

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the Presbyterian widows group who completed their basket order and sent two new samples for consideration.

RAFIKI VILLAGE TANZANIA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- The area around Kilimanjaro has received unprecedented rainfall in the past few months. Normally we would expect high temperatures and dry conditions as we move into our “summer.” Instead we see green grass everywhere and are enjoying the sound of rain on the roofs at night.
- We had a good maize yield this year, despite adverse conditions in the early stages. Pastor Mamuya from our local church was very happy to receive the tithe from our harvest for the support of the good work in the parish.

Praises:

- We thank God for our partners at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania who offer practical and spiritual support to all the ministry at Rafiki Village Tanzania.
- We thank Him for the beautiful and productive land He has provided for the Village.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to grow every adult and child at our Village in dependence on His Word to know and do His will.
- approval of our property rezoning and the registration of our secondary school in time for the beginning of the school year that will begin in January.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- The children of the Rafiki Village Tanzania are growing in size quickly, evidenced by an increased amount of food being served in our dining room. The children walking to the National School each day have a huge appetite when they arrive home from school every day.
- The children are also growing in their knowledge of God and many are beginning to apply the Word of God to their actions as they study the Book of 1 Peter. It is wonderful to see the transformation of hearts.

Praises:

- Praise God for a loving, energetic, and hardworking ChildCare staff.
- Praise God for a helpful and healthy kitchen staff who prepare wonderful meals for the children and staff.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to help the Rafiki Mothers as they love and care for and discipline over thirty teenage children along with the younger children.
- God to provide one new loving and caring Rafiki Mother to replace one who is leaving to return to school.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- We are quickly approaching the end of the school year. Recitation and closing will take place on December 6. We are amazed as we look back over the year and realize how much the students have grown and learned.
- Two classes were able to go on a field trip at the end of October to a rose farm. They were very interested in how the roses are grown and cared for, but they were even more excited to see a hydroelectric power supply in real life after studying them in their sciences classes. The way God has designed the world truly inspires genuine awe and wonder.

Praises:

- God has given all twenty of our standard seven students the knowledge and skills needed for their national exams; they all passed!
- God provided the way for the headmistress and two of the national teachers to attend Rafiki's Christian Classical Education Conference in Nairobi at the beginning of November where they were inspired and gained a deeper understanding of what it means to educate our students classically.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to move the government officials to put the final signatures on the approval of the land use change so that we can proceed with registration of the secondary school.
- God to provide direction and ability to share all of the wonderful content that we gained at the Christian Classical Education Conference in an effective way so that all teachers will be inspired and able to implement meaningful changes.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Updates:

- Our three practicum students have been busy here at the end of the fourth term with lesson plans and practice teaching in Rafiki school. Observations by RICE staff have shown strong evidence that the student-teachers have learned, understood, and begun to apply the essential methods and principles of Christian classical education.

Praises:

- We thank God for all He has taught our students about Christian living and excellent teaching in the past year.
- The two students who are taking the artistic design course have shown amazing progress in their knowledge and technical ability through the three projects they've completed this term.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to prepare and help us identify a strong cohort of new students for the 2020 school year.
- our graduates to find employment opportunities that will allow them to use the skills they've worked so hard to obtain, for God's glory and for the good of this country.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- Some short-term missionaries returned to the U.S and carried product back with them from the Tanzanian widows' groups. This batch of product includes several new items from the new group of Masai women who were mentioned in the prayer updates last month.

Praises:

- We thank God for quickly answering our prayers for help for the new group of Masai women. They have shown enthusiasm and attention to detail in their work, and they are thrilled with the economic opportunity.
- We thank God for everyone who supports the program through prayer and through their purchases from the Rafiki Exchange.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- strong sales both online and in our Mount Dora, Florida store to enable more people to know about the work of Rafiki.
- the women in our program to gain both economic and spiritual benefits from their participation.

RAFIKI VILLAGE UGANDA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- Kelly Fore, David Kumpe and two Rafiki Christian classical school administrators of Uganda, Jessica and Chriz, had the special opportunity to attend the Conference on Christian Classical Education hosted by Rafiki in Kenya at the start of November. What a gift and joy! All who attended were encouraged and invigorated in their leadership of Christian classical education.

Praises:

- We are very thankful for the first ever Christian Classical Conference in Africa, and the opportunity for four from Rafiki Uganda to attend.
- Four church partners from the Church of Uganda were also able to attend the conference. They further caught the vision of Christian classical education and desire to see it in their schools.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- a strong finish to the school year for our RICE and Rafiki school students, and for excellent end of term grades.
- the Church of Uganda to implement Christian classical education in their schools through use of the Rafiki Bible Study, Rafiki curriculum, and RICE trained teachers.
- Missionary Patti Lafage's wrist to continue healing well and for her final wrist surgery in early December to be successful with no complications.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- We are well into the last term of the school year.
- Five of our residents have completed practical exams in music for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) at the end of October, and we are waiting final results. We had two residents play flute, two violin, and one oboe. These residents are also members of the Bivuga Sinfonia and are rehearsing for Christmas concerts.

Praises:

- Our grade level eleven and grade level seven students have successfully completed their national exams. We are thankful that testing integrity was good and that there were no issues with the testing process. All candidate students remained healthy during the testing season.
- We have a great caregiver team here at the Village. There is strong teamwork and good supervision of our residents.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the residents to finish this term strong academically and with good, God-honoring behavior.
- most of our residents to be able to join relatives and host families for homestay over the Christmas/New Year break. Please pray for safe travels and good health while they are at homestay.

Rafiki Education Program

Updates:

- At the start of term four, an upper school physics and math teacher resigned. A teacher with this combination of teaching subjects is in high demand, and in the past, it has taken several months to find and hire one. However, within one week of the resignation, God brought us a fantastic replacement. The faculty and administration rejoice in God's faithfulness and provision.

Praises:

- God's timely provision of a new physics and math teacher.
- The primary seven and grade level eleven classes completed the national exams with integrity.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the primary seven and grade level eleven national exams to be graded fairly.
- the teachers and students to enjoy a restful Christmas holiday.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Updates:

- We are halfway through term four with our fifteen RICE students. It's a very busy term with lots of projects and assignments to complete. We are still waiting for accreditation approval from the National Council of Higher Education. We are hoping to have their decision before January 2020.

Praises:

- We have fifteen students currently. We have also accepted three more students for the upcoming term one of 2020.
- We have four students doing practicum this term in preprimary and primary classes at the Rafiki school.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- our RICE students to complete the term well, especially those completing their practicum.
- the Lord to bring us more qualified applicants for the RICE program for 2020.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- The widows continue to fulfill the latest order from the Home Office. As Christmas approaches, they are grateful for the extra income.

Praises:

- We are thankful for our widows' lives that are improved which is a result of the sales of their product.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to lead many potential new buyers to the Exchange website and to the various points of sale - especially during the Christmas season!

RAFIKI VILLAGE ZAMBIA

Rafiki Village

Updates:

- Staff and students have been faithful in attendance and we have been learning to persevere as we have all been studying Titus and now 1 Peter.
- We have enjoyed a very hot, dry season; knowing on its heels would come the rain. This past week, the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of rain earlier than it has been in at least seven years!

Praises:

- We are thankful for the rain which is bringing the drought to an end.
- Praise God for the safety and provision for the Village staff and students.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God’s word to penetrate and change hearts
- unity between all the programs and the participants of the various programs as we learn and work together.

Rafiki ChildCare Program

Updates:

- We are making a more concerted effort to teach the children the value of the food, clothing, supplies, shelter, and education that they are being given. They are often working extra jobs to replace or earn an item they need, for example, when they have been careless.

Praises:

- We praise God that one of our Rafiki Mothers was able to visit the child who is on an extended time away from the Village, staying with his relatives. She found that he misses Rafiki.
- God is supplying wisdom and strength for guidance and correction and we are seeing some good results.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- God to provide the way for the children’s extended families to come to hear their children recite at the end of the school year and then take them home for a three-week holiday.
- protection and provision while the children are away as they will most likely face situations and temptations that will be new for them. Please pray for God to make them bold, courageous, and stand firm in the Word they have been taught.

Rafiki Education Program

Praises:

- The headmaster and two administrators attended the first Christian Classical Education Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and returned inspired and excited.
- Our grade level nine and seven students have taken their national exams and we trust God for a very successful outcome.
- Despite excessive heat, teachers and students continue to strive and learn much.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- a very strong end to the school year, with all students not just learning but growing in enjoyment of learning.
- teachers' ability to mentor students in wisdom, virtue, and godliness.
- the Rafiki Bible Study to be the highlight for each student each day.

Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute Program

Updates:

- We are completing week six of our fourth term. Many good students are working very hard and all students are performing at the 85 to 100 percent level in all the courses.
- Students seem to be enjoying the art and music courses we are teaching.

Praises:

- We thank God for a wonderful year at RICE. We have thus far not lost one student except thru the three graduations we have had this year. We started the year with thirty-nine students and we are finishing the year with forty-four students.
- Job opportunities are becoming reality on several fronts. The Rafiki school recently hired three RICE grads to fill in and be considered as permanent teachers at the end of the first term 2020. The Congolese orphan and refugee program is wanting to hire RICE grads as English teachers for Congolese refugees. One of our partner churches, the CCAP church school in Ndola, is interested in interviewing as many as four RICE grads for two positions beginning in January. Although not confirmed with offers, two other partner church schools—Lusaka Baptist and Kabwata Baptist church schools—have expressed serious interest in hiring RICE grads for 2020.
- RAIN has finally come to Zambia!

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- a strong finish to the RICE deans' year here in Zambia. They want to complete the course well.
- Doris who has been trained by Cathy Brown to replace the Farrands as dean of RICE in January. Karen has agreed to stay on in January to make the transition as smooth and successful as possible.

Rafiki Widows Program

Updates:

- Our group of five sewing trainees continue to work together to fill an order for products.
- The ladies are planning to move to a new, more spacious workshop

Praises:

- A third batch of hand-crafted items has been sent to the U.S.

Prayer Requests—Please pray for:

- the present order of products to be completed correctly as designed.
- products to be sold quickly in the U.S. so more orders can be made.
- the new workshop to enable the ladies to expand their training and outreach program.