



February 3, 2009

Dear Dr. Morehouse,

I am writing this evening regarding the work of the Rafiki Foundation with needy children in Africa; and our need for Christian physicians to serve short term during one of our quarterly Community Medical Clinics. I am writing to ask if I could send an e-mail with the information below to those on you list in your directory?

Rafiki is a Christian missions organization with Villages in 10 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. Our Villages are located in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Ethiopia. *Rafiki is a Swahili word for friend.*

In sub-Saharan Africa, the AIDS pandemic has deprived many children of their fathers and mothers. Even with one surviving parent, the needs of a child cannot be met in most of these countries. School enrollment and literacy rates in Africa are among the lowest in the world. An estimated 42 million children in sub-Saharan Africa alone are not enrolled in school. Many cannot afford to go or stay in primary school and in some countries, 70% of the girls do not continue to secondary school.

In response to this need, Rafiki Villages are designed to care for children from infancy to age eighteen.

Our goal is to nurture orphaned African children into godly contributors in their countries. *We do not place our children for adoption.*

In each Village, we provide care for our children in four primary ways:

1. Medical/Dental: Daily health care is provided to the children and as needed to the national staff.

Quarterly, in five of our villages, we conduct a 10-day Community Medical Clinic [CMC] for those living in the communities surrounding our Village who do not have access to health care.

Before the summer, we have a clinic scheduled in our Villages in Nairobi Kenya and Mzuzu, Malawi.

2. Childcare: The sheltering, feeding, clothing and loving of orphan children in a Godly environment. Currently, we have approximately 495 children living in our Villages with more coming all the time. Each Village has a Christian local mother for each 10 children and each mother has a separate cottage for her and her children.

3. Education: Our program provides a classical education from preschool to primary school [grades 1-6] and junior secondary school [grades 7-9]. A senior secondary school [grades 10-12] will be included soon. Our school curriculum, designed by Rafiki, meets all education standards of each country. In addition, the Vocational Arts program teaches older children vocational skills and allows them to use their artistic gifts to create items that are available through the Rafiki Exchange.

We are committed to providing a quality education in a Christian environment to our children so they learn to think, live, and lead others from a biblical worldview. We accept teenage girls and boys from local villages that do not have access to an education into our schools.

To prepare you for your service in a Village, Rafiki has a required *one time* training program, a Friday evening and all day that Saturday at our home office in Eustis [Orlando] Florida.

The training dates in 2009 are: April 17-19, 2009 or May 8-10, 2009 October 2-4, 2009 or November 13-15, 2009.

You can also learn more about Rafiki on our website at www.rafiki-foundation.org.

Thank you for considering my request. My contact information is below.

Serving Jesus' together around the world,

Joe Baucom
Rafiki Area Representative
401 College Avenue
Winona Lake, IN 46590
joebauc@aol.com
574-370-2699