



Spring 2024

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19a).

Dear Friends,

Thank you for partnering with us in making disciples of the next generation of the world.

I say “the world” because in the next 25 years one-half of the world’s toddlers to teenagers will be born on the continent of Africa. That’s right, 1.2 billion young people—and we believe God has given Rafiki a strategy and resources to assist the church in cultivating the next generation of godly contributors in Africa and to the world.

In addition to the explosive youth population, there are also some of the largest church denominations in the world in Africa, and Rafiki partners with 25 of them. By God’s grace and over 40 years of work, Rafiki has established solid relationships with denominations serving over 60 million Christians and 20,000 schools. Just imagine if God allowed Rafiki’s curriculum, Bible study, and other resources to flow through our ten Rafiki Villages to these church partners to help them make disciples.

HELPING THE CHURCH IN AFRICA



Why is this needed since there are so many churches in Africa? It is because the African church is in need of doctrinally sound materials and help with their schools. Church schools in Africa are Christian in name only since they rely solely on a secular government curriculum. They have been just like public schools, but now, they can replace their texts with Rafiki’s classical Christian curriculum. In addition, Bibles and Bible studies are not affordable for the average African. A good study Bible can cost \$75 and when you only make \$125 – \$150 a month, that’s impossible to afford! So many go without Bibles, and children go to church schools that don’t teach the Bible nor have a Christian worldview. With these resources, we can help the church in Africa make disciples of the next generation of the world.

DOUBLING THE IMPACT

The doors are opening across our ten countries for us to do just that, but we need your continued support, and we have a unique opportunity.

This spring your partnership can have an even greater impact through a generous grant opportunity. One of our faithful donors has offered to match every donation during this spring appeal up to \$500,000.

Double the impact of your gift by giving now to support making disciples of the next generation of the world.



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I want to double my impact and help make disciples of the next generation of the world.

I want to sponsor a child. Give to where most needed. Give to the education general fund (Fund: S001).

Please make checks payable to Rafiki Foundation.

You may also donate through our website—www.RafikiFoundation.org or call (352) 483-9131.

Contribution Amount: One time Monthly \$100 \$250 \$1000 Other _____

Your Name: _____

Contact Id: _____

Address (if changed) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

MAKING DISCIPLES

RAISING HEROES



So how are we making disciples **within the Rafiki Villages**? Just last month, we received this story from our Rafiki Village Uganda.

This quote came from the parent of four Rafiki classical Christian school Uganda students who was at first skeptical about classical Christian education. After meeting with the head teachers of the school, she shared this:

“Good evening, Teacher Chris. Thank you for today. I am glad I attended the meeting. When this term started, I felt challenged to read about classical education, so I thoroughly did. I couldn’t continue with something that I didn’t understand and couldn’t explain to someone else. That research increased my love for Rafiki. So today, as you people were explaining, I was so filled with joy. You are doing a commendable job. I am glad all my four boys are now with you. I know that together, **we will raise heroes.**”

EDUCATING CHILDREN IN NEED

Every day at our ten Rafiki Villages, we have PreK-12 classical Christian schools providing daily Bible study, two meals, and education from a biblical worldview to all 3600 students. Next to the family and the church, a classical Christian school is a fruitful discipleship environment. Daily, God enables Rafiki to “raise heroes” of the faith by making disciples through these schools. All of the children are on some form of scholarship and need to be sponsored.

Our schools are in high demand—all have waiting lists. In one country, we have a waiting list of 600 children. Some children leave home before the sun rises to walk 3 km to school, and one mother recently registered her newborn. Our schools have increased their enrollment 6 times over what it was ten years ago.



How else is God using Rafiki to make disciples of the next generation of the world?

RAISING AND GRADUATING ORPHANS



Through our Orphan Care Program, we are seeing hundreds of our orphans now in tertiary education or living independently. They will be permeating the culture in a variety of ways.

Imagine young men and women with a biblical worldview in the fields of architecture, finance, biochemistry, engineering, law, medicine, nursing, church ministry, computer science, and education. Imagine them in vocational fields such as Christian caterers, business owners in the tourism industry, construction and building contractors, horticulture, journalism, and Christian plumbers, carpenters, welders, and more! These young people—many of whom we have raised since they were toddlers—are pursuing these interests and are being launched in ten countries in these roles!

GODLY CONTRIBUTORS

Serena (not her real name) was found abandoned in a taxi park and taken to a baby home. She was placed at a Rafiki Village in June of 2003. She quickly showed much promise as she mastered physical skills and excelled in school. She was and is delightful to be around and has many friends both in her family and among the children in the other families. Serena graduated from Rafiki School at the end of 2019 and was then accepted to a major university to pursue a bachelor of electrical engineering. She excelled in an internship with a large corporation last summer and is presently finishing her last year of university. She has several job opportunities awaiting her upon graduation.





Michael (not his real name) was found wandering the streets of his village when he was two years old. He was taken to a baby home in April 2003 and then moved to a Rafiki Village later that year in December. It was not easy for him to adjust. He was afraid to go to bed at night, didn't speak the language of the other children, and had never learned how to express feelings of fear or anger. As time went on, he formed a deep bond with his Rafiki Mother and adjusted to a safe, loving environment as he grew into a quiet leader. Mike graduated from the Rafiki School in 2019 and then went on to attend and graduate from a technological institute with a diploma in architecture. He is presently working with a construction company. At his job, he does design

work and is a construction site supervisor. He is growing spiritually and is very active in his church, and he has become a bit of a mentor and encourager to other Rafiki graduates.

*Not only do your gifts help make disciples on an individual basis but also **exponentially** through the sharing of our resources and those of our U.S. partners with the African church.*

DISTRIBUTING BIBLES



During 2023, Rafiki, in collaboration with Ligonier, Crossway, and the Rosemary Jensen Bible Foundation, distributed over 45,700 Bibles to our African partner denominations. This makes a total of over 100,000 Bibles distributed since 2017. These Bibles have gone to pastors, seminary students, Sunday school teachers, and children. In 2023, to accompany these Bibles, we delivered over 4500 sets of Sunday school materials—each set flowing to one of 4500 different churches in Africa, helping those churches study God's Word each week in every Sunday school class!

Throughout 2024, we will send 100,000 Bibles to Africa for distribution among our church partners. In February, 2000 study Bibles were distributed to indigenous missionaries from our partner church in Nigeria, equipping them to reach those in darkness and plant churches across 19 countries.

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS (FROM SECULAR TO CHRISTIAN!)

The Bible study not only flows to churches but we have 55 schools in seven of our ten countries using the Rafiki Bible Study and some portion of our curriculum. In 2023 we hosted two classical Christian conferences (Uganda and Kenya) with over 750 attendees—it has accelerated the interest in Rafiki's education system. In 2024 we will be training another 40 schools in the successful implementation of the Bible study and curriculum, doubling our impact. Our goal is to have 100 schools this year using our curriculum and, ultimately, 1000 schools, each with over 500 students across ten countries in Africa. Imagine the impact that 500,000 children and youth studying the Bible daily in school and receiving a biblical worldview education will have on the rest of the world!



TRAINING CHRISTIAN TEACHERS



Not only are we focused on PreK-12 classical Christian schools but we are running teacher training colleges—because you can't have a good school without a good teacher. We anticipate accreditation for six of our RICE (Rafiki Institute of Classical Education) Programs to become classical Christian degree granting institutions in the next year. With daily Bible study, courses in theology and church history, as well as core content such as science, math, English, art, music, and practicums, this program doesn't just make good teachers, it also makes disciples. Currently serving 170 RICE students, we plan to welcome another 152 this year. Since inception, over 500 young people have been through at least one year of RICE. Many have been hired by us and others are now employed in the partner schools across Africa. They are some of the best teachers in the area!

Two of our RICE graduates recently went to work in a partner school in a Muslim dominated area. Our two graduates have helped this school launch well. Moreover, the Bible study and the Christian atmosphere of the school were used by God to bring a Muslim parent to Christ.

Support us as we cultivate disciples of the next generation of the world and assist the church in Africa to do likewise. Join us by praying, GOING YOURSELF as a missionary, or giving during this spring giving opportunity. We are eager to see what God will do in 2024 and beyond—both in Africa and around the world as the LORD works in Rafiki and in you as we partner together.

Yours in Christ,

Karen J. Elliott

Executive Director
Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

UPDATING OUR PARTNERS

Scan the QR code to watch Karen Elliott's recent ministry update given at Rafiki's annual Enrichment meeting.



CREATING A LEGACY

Would you consider making Rafiki Foundation part of your legacy by including Rafiki in your will? Please reach out to Tom Kreamer, Director of Finance, for more information.
352-483-9964

