



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Dear Family and Friends,

RAFIKI GIRLS' CENTER NEWS



Few things speak more to a Kenyan than a uniform. Every guard aspires to the day when he will be given one to wear so he can be looked up to as a "professional". Self-respecting electricians and plumbers take the time to don their lab coats before working, showing they are engineers. And nothing says more about the respect a student has toward learning than wearing the official attire of their school.

Last Monday our second semester students started their day by sharing their uniforms with the six new first semester students. They thought of this on their own, making us proud "parents" as we saw them welcoming and being their "big sisters." This next week a seamstress will come and measure the new students for their uniforms. But they already know they are accepted and loved by their peers.

MISS KOR KY

Many of you will recall Kor ky, a young Kenyan lady who came to the U.S. with us last year. She is praising God for being accepted to Cisco Junior College, in Abilene, Texas. She works at a school and wishes to get a teaching degree. She is awaiting a student visa. She has completed driving classes and is making preparations to leave Kenya, believing God will open the way for her to be granted a visa. Although she is in her early twenties, she is taking care of the finances for putting her seven-year-old brother through school, and taking care of her mama. They will miss her greatly, although she is working toward continuing to provide for them financially. Kor ky plans to return to Kenya to teach after graduation in the States.

RAFIKI VILLAGE NEWS

As we work closer toward the day we begin to hire permanent staff, Doug has had to select a couple of people out of all our casual staff to be groomed for their jobs as permanent staff. For instance, our future maintenance man is being trained to do plumbing, painting, masonry, etc. Unfortunately, those who are still being given jobs like digging and hauling stones have treated him as an outsider lately. This is yet another sign of the desperate circumstances most

Kenyans live under. The distance between “making it” and starving is often less than two weeks time. By the end of May, our current phase of construction will wind down, and our focus will shift to admitting children and the staff necessary to support the day-to-day operations of this village. Most of our current workers, some of whom have worked faithfully with us for two years, will be searching for new jobs. Please pray for them. Many of them are supporting extended families, since this is the way they deal with 50% unemployment. The burdens placed on a working person are great, and for one of these people to lose their job means suffering for perhaps ten or more people. As for now, our morning devotionals will continue to deal with relationships, for the way we treat others is indicative of our walk with Jesus.

POWER AND LIGHTS

One of our goals is for the village to be self-sufficient in regard to drinking water and electricity. This goal should be met during April. By law we are required to have water storage sufficient for a week for every person on site. Construction of the water storage system has begun; power outages of twenty-four to forty-eight hours are common each week, so we are looking forward to the blessing of having our own generator commissioned the 2nd week of April.

Praises & Prayer Requests

- Approval of Popes’ work visa
- Thanks to our prayer partners who faithfully lift us up in prayer.
- A total of fifteen girls at the RGC
- Carolyn has made her last trip out of country for the study of *John*
- Orange flame tree blossoms and yellow Thevatias are in full bloom
- To get back to the basics—prayer, service, and unity
- All three Rafiki staff houses are ready for cabinets and flooring
- End of BSF class and preparations for retreat before end of classes
- Completion of generator, well pump test, and water storage tanks
- Stamina, wisdom, and determination to keep up with the workload of *Rafiki*, BSF, and Sunday school

Our Love to you,

*Doug, Carolyn
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