



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel”
(Isaiah 7:14).



SHARON AND GRACE READY TO PRAY

We have had the privilege of helping bring several orphans to Rafiki Village Kenya in October. One Wednesday, we went to pick up a two- and one-half year-old girl, Leah. She had been in the same baby orphanage since she was four months old and she found the transfer to be abit difficult. Leah doesn't speak Kiswahili or English yet, and we don't speak Kikamba, so we all did the best we could. We turned on the radio, gave Leah a doll, read a picture book with her, and gave her a banana. Leah's favorite was the doll. Fortunately for all of us, she got about an hour of sleep in the car. For about the last one-half hour or so, she resigned herself to the fact that she was going somewhere and lay on the seat looking up at the ceiling. When we arrived, Carolyn carried Leah to her cottage and her new Rafiki Mother and family. Rafiki Mother Miriam took Leah and introduced her to her brothers and sisters. Leah seemed to be willing to give these new people a try. The next day Carolyn went over to see how things were going and found one of Leah's new big sisters leading her around by the hand and showing her the fun places to play. She told Carolyn, "This is my sister!" Leah was smiling!

Isn't it amazing how much comfort one good friend can give? The next Monday, Carolyn went back to the same baby orphanage and brought three more children to their new home.

The six cottages we currently have are filling up. With fifty children (thirty boys, twenty girls and

six Rafiki Mothers) and room for only ten more, construction has begun for the next three cottages. Like boys do everywhere when they're out of school, when the men are digging, tying steel, and hauling stone, the boys stand at the playground and take it all in.



CAROLYN AND LEAH COMING TO RAFIKI

Work is also continuing on a four-acre plot adjoining the current compound. A wall is going up and should be completed within a month. This is the area where a Rafiki Boys' Center is about to be built. Doug received the drawings today for the classroom and workshop buildings, so the next step is to go through the bid process. School is supposed to start in October 2006!

One of the men who has worked here on other construction jobs knew Doug had been in the Air Force at one time, and said he wished he could do the same. Military life has a dependable income, so he asked Doug why he left the military. Doug told him that at that time, life in the barracks meant being surrounded by an unsavory lifestyle. After four years of not being able to get away from those influences, Doug decided not to rejoin. Doug told him it was one of the best decisions he ever made. That decision made it possible for him to meet Carolyn and also took him down the road which has led our family to Africa.

Last Wednesday, the message during morning devotion was about Elijah gathering Israel and the priests of Baal on top of Mt. Carmel. The priests of Baal had deceived Israel for years and when Elijah told them to either follow the Lord or follow Baal, the people said nothing. Elijah had already made his appeal to the king. The priests of Baal had already made up their minds. So the focus of everything Elijah said and did on that mountain was to show the people how badly they had backslidden and that the Lord was calling them back to Himself. They had once known the Lord, and there was no excuse for their lack of response. So now God would show them how foolish it was to follow the world's ways and its gods. After morning devotion a man came to say that he had been struggling for quite a while. Everything he was trying to do to raise funds to go to college had failed. He had stopped going to church and all his friendships were shallow. He kept saying over and over that he had no peace. His old friends, with whom he ran around when he was a street boy, were again his closest friends and were a bad influence. His father told him that because he had strayed, he was no longer his son. The only person he can say still loves him is his mom. She is saved and continues to pray for him. He said that as he was walking to work that morning, he heard Someone say to his heart "Today is the day for you to listen and come back to me." He knew it was God speaking to him, and he knew the reason he had no peace was because he was in sin. He prayed for forgiveness and recommitted his life to the Lord. He thanked God for speaking to him again and asked for help because he was going to have to get new friends. Doug asked him to share the news of rededicating his life to the Lord during devotion the next morning (in front of about fifty people), and he did so with conviction and boldness. This morning he smiled and told Doug that he went back to church this weekend. During this next month he intends to travel back home and ask his father for forgiveness.



RAFIKI VILLAGE OF KENYA TEAM:
 BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): DAN AND JANE POPE,
 BECKY MILLER AND ROSE ALLINDER
 (STANDING ON A ROCK),
 DOUG AND CAROLYN KOEPKE
 MIDDLE ROW: TOM AND BETSY KREAMER,
 YEEN LAN LAM, MELISSA AND BRANDON BYRD
 FRONT ROW: BECKY AND GEORGE KARSCHNEY

Serving with you,

*Doug, Carolyn
 Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke

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If you would like to receive a monthly prayer letter via e-mail please write to our email prayer captain, John Paul, at the following address.
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NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.