



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 1988 • Eustis FL 32727-1988 • 407-557-2850 • FAX: 352-483-9132

December 2008

“You shall not see your brother’s ox (or socks) or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother” (Deuteronomy 22:1).

Dear friends and family,

Giving of Socks:

It’s that time of year when we joyfully think about Christmas and the activities that go along with the Christmas season. One of the activities we do every year is to give each child three pair of new school socks. The mothers carefully mark each sock with the child’s name. Then begins the task of keeping track of all the socks—imagine 480 socks to keep straight! This year, five days after “the giving of the socks,” substitute mother Mildred reported she couldn’t find any socks at Beersheba Cottage. The woman who was the Rafiki Mother for that cottage left us in October. It’s hard keeping track of every child and every thing in every cottage even with full-time mothers. Now we are trying to keep everything organized in Beersheba cottage as we wait for a full-time mother. The verses we studied in Deuteronomy this week reminded me of our lost socks. Everyone at the Village must help look for each others’ lost socks, and help care for the eighty-four precious children who live here. We are a community of God’s people learning to care for each other. Pray that God gives us loving wisdom and sends the mother we need for Beersheba Cottage quickly.

Sharing of Stories:



Recently MiniMissionary Jade shared a story about six-year-old Mumo. When she first got to Rafiki, she went to introduce herself to the children. Mumo came up to her and asked, “You are called what?” She introduced herself as Mrs.

Phillips. She could see him thinking. Then, as he pushed out his lips, he asked her, “Mrs. Full Lips?”

Giving of Time:

Twice each week, four of our maintenance men spend an hour mentoring some of our oldest boys. Hillary, Brian, Charles, and Elijah are learning how to cut grass, repair plumbing,



DOUG AND BRIAN

maintain flower beds, work in attics, install electrical wiring, etc. Doug has also been teaching the boys how to play the guitar. They have enjoyed learning new things, but the biggest joy is being able to spend time with the men in their lives. Doug took Hillary up on a ladder to do some wiring, and after Hillary got used to being up so high he started feeling like a “big boy.” Hillary learned how to strip insulation from the wires and join them with wire nuts. When Doug showed him it was ok to throw the waste pieces of wire down onto the floor, Hillary started giggling and laughing. It took a minute to figure out what Hillary was so tickled about. He is so used to being told to clean up messes and keep everything neat, that when he found out that “big boys” get to make messes, he was overjoyed! (After they finished they got off the ladder and cleaned up their mess!)



Doug has been teaching the boys’ vocational arts class to make picture frames out of wood scraps. The first set wasn’t good enough for varnish, so the

boys filled the cracks and flaws and painted them with animal prints. Carolyn put them in the dining hall framing the Ten Commandments. The boys improved with the next set of frames, so they are now painting an African print over the varnished wood grain.

Carolyn serves as ChildCare Program Director and healthcare manager at the Village. She opens the clinic from 2-3 P.M. each day seeing around fifteen children and employees a week.





Giving of Ourselves:

Recently we moved the children into all boy and all girl cottages. To accomplish this, almost half of the children moved into new cottages. We prayed and planned for

several weeks before the move. The children and mothers have settled quickly, but two of the children in Canaan Cottage had difficult adjustments the first few days. Elijah, who is hearing impaired, and Davis, one of our older boys, had tears running down their cheeks the day after the move. Elijah does not speak clearly and some of the boys who moved into Canaan were laughing at the way he spoke. He needed and found a shoulder to cry on with Rafiki Mother Lydia as she sought to console him. Davis was trying to be strong but wept at the loss his mother. He was found at age three wandering the streets of Kericho after being abandoned by his birthmother. Then, he went to a baby home before coming to Rafiki in 2004. Mama Lydia was there to let him cry on her shoulder and encourage him. *Pray for continued adjustment of all the children and thank God for wonderful mothers like Lydia.*

God Giving to Us:

We are grateful for the ways we have seen God at work this year.

- Family reunions in Texas and South Dakota while were home last summer.
- A new granddaughter named Brianna who was born in March to our daughter Jessica and son-in-law Josh in Texas.
- Good schools and grades for Rebecca and Sarah in Texas and Kenya.
- We are thankful for the many supporters who have faithfully continued to contribute to this ministry and partner with us. We are especially grateful during this time of worldwide economic stress.



clothes dryers, increased production of our gardens, and have begun cutting hair at home!

- God is using the hard economic times to challenge us in our stewardship of every dollar we spend. Our team recently joined with the Rafiki Village employees by putting our heads together in figuring out ways to conserve our resources. Together we have decreased our hours of power, limited use of
- Our eighty children are adjusting quickly to single-gender cottages.
- God’s provision of Georgi, filling in for John Paul, our prayer captain, while he is sick.

Prayer Requests:

- God to provide his choice of Rafiki Mothers
- Wisdom for all to care for inquisitive children
- God to provide MiniMissionary men who will come and be involved with our older boys. Many of the boys are developing an interest in how things work and would love men to help them put together puzzles, erector sets, and model airplanes.
- Our mothers to have energy, strength, joy, and the ability to provide consistent discipline for the ten children in their cottages.
- God's provision of funds to build an older children’s residence hall and a godly Kenyan couple to love the children who will live there.
- Please pray for returned strength and health for our prayer captain John Paul and his wife Carol.

Thanking God for the gift of His Son Jesus Christ our Savior,

*Doug, Carolyn
Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke

P.O. Box 25372 – 00603
Nairobi Kenya
EAST AFRICA

If you would like to receive periodic updates by email, please contact Georgi Duwe who is filling in as prayer captain for us. georgi@georgiduwe.com