



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

December 2012 – Doug and Carolyn Koepke



***"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"***  
(Philippians 1:4-6).

Dear family and friends,

It is nice to be home again. After an extended stay in the U.S. this summer, we have settled back into the Rafiki Village routine. We are especially thankful for the improvement in Sarah's health and for the ROS and MiniMissionaries who served selflessly while we were away.

Perhaps you have heard that there is fighting spilling over into Rwanda? There is a conflict, but it is happening in Congo near the Rwandan border. The Rafiki Village is located far away from there. Several staff family members and some missionary friends live there. *Please pray for safety and peace for all who are involved.*

Mike and Dana Cooper are returning to serve as MiniMissionaries in December. They have graciously served many times, in both Kenya and Rwanda. Doug is always happy to work with Mike. Last year they put in a new pathway.



In Rwanda, Christmas Day is a traditional time for baptisms and thirteen of our children will be baptized on Christmas Day! The picture above is of the Rafiki children who were baptized last year.

Our sixty-five Rafiki Children are looking forward to Christmas. As in any family, traditions are important. Some traditions that are an integral part of Christmas for the children here are: setting up the Christmas tree, daily Christmas play practices, making (and eating) Christmas cookies, attending a Christmas party with children from the local church and singing Christmas carols outside in the gazebo on Christmas Eve with the missionary staff.

Unlike last year, this Christmas will NOT involve circumcisions and all the boys say, "Amen!"

### **Answered Prayers:**

- We have had abundant rainfall. Lots of rain means grass mowing happens every day. It also means the road suffers from erosion. The road inside the Village was recently graded. Now, the road is smooth and is no longer a slippery slide during downpours. No more stuck vehicles—yeah!



- Sarah is settling in to have Christmas in Texas with her grandma. She is attending the Holland Medical High School and is doing well. We are praying for her hip pain to completely subside. We are very thankful she has access to excellent medical care. Thank you for your prayers. God is graciously making a way where there seemed to be no way.
- We are learning about “the empty nest”. What a change it has been! The house is certainly quieter. We miss Sarah’s cooking but are rediscovering our cookbooks! God is so good to give us sixty-five Rafiki children to help fill our nest.
- After a lengthy process, we have been granted a five-year registration certificate by the Rwandan government.
- We prayed for two new school teachers, and God provided an overwhelming response. Eleven teacher candidates applied, and two exceptional ones were hired.
- The school now has a real library—2,500 books! For a school library in Africa, this is outstanding. Praise God for the MiniMissionaries who spent considerable time cataloging and marking book spines.
- God answered our prayer for English children’s dictionaries for the Rafiki children, mothers, and aunties to use in the cottages. Their English skills have improved greatly over the past two years.
- The widow’s baskets from Rwanda are selling like hotcakes at Rafiki Home Office in Florida. Many widows from our partner churches benefit from this.

### Requests:

- Pray for Doug as he is giving the Christmas message at church.
- Funds to build a preschool.
- Full sponsorship for each child.
- Complete funding for the Koepkes seventh term with Rafiki.
- The fighting happening around the boarder of Congo will stop.
- Safety for everyone at the Village.
- MiniMissionary Libby is here for two months and will celebrate Christmas with us. This means sacrifice and missing her family Christmas in the U.S.

Thank you for the faithful prayers and support from so many of you this last year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

Carolyn and Doug Koepke

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ROS #102

P.S. From the Home Office: Carolyn and Doug are at 23% of the total funding needed for their next term 7 (January 2013 – December 2014).