



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

December 2013 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"The promise is for you and your children, and also for those who are far away—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39).***

Dear family and friends,

### **Merry Christmas!**

The children and all of us at Rafiki Village Rwanda are praying for each of you to have a joyous Christ-filled Christmas. What happens during Christmas at Rafiki? The children rehearse and present a play telling of Jesus' birth. They sang at a Christmas concert in Kigali at the Anglican Church and were so excited to ride a bus into town.



Another tradition is making Christmas cookies to eat after singing carols on Christmas Eve. This Christmas, the children will have the opportunity to learn to ride a bike and may even have a chance to ride on a zip-line!

### **Art Celebration Day**

Thursday was an arts celebration day for the primary aged children. Music, art, and poems were presented by the children for all to enjoy. Teacher Vicky Koch is giving music lessons to several children after school. Epa played a piece he had been practicing for his first piano recital. Good job Epa!



### **Welcome Home Jackson and Fabrice**



Welcome our two new boys who came home to Rafiki in November. We are especially grateful for God's protection and provision for four-year-old Jackson. He was being cared for by his fourteen-year-old sister and thirteen-year-old brother after their parents died. Jackson hadn't eaten anything the two days before we took him for a medical physical. He was listless when we picked him up, but much more alert and talkative after we fed him. He and four-year-old Fabrice are both doing well since coming to Rafiki.

### **Update on our daughter, Sarah**

Sarah is settling into a routine in Texas with her grandmother, but still battles pain in her hip. Her attitude in general is happy but she isn't able to stay awake very many hours during the day. Her pain is more manageable after a neurostimulator was surgically placed in her spine, but she still requires medication in doses large enough to make her too sleepy to start college yet.

### **Calling all MiniMissionaries!**

Express your love for God by becoming a MiniMissionary in Africa and serving those in need. Rafiki short-term mission opportunities allow you to put God's Word to work through short-term service at a Rafiki Training Village. Short-term missions are opportunities for individuals to see

what we are doing in the Rafiki Training Villages, to get involved with the work, and to follow the heart of God and the heart of Rafiki. Your short-term service provides both help and hope for orphans and vulnerable children. Though the duration of the mission trip depends upon the needs of the Villages and your availability, a typical trip runs between fourteen days to one month.

Please e-mail [mm@rafikifoundation.org](mailto:mm@rafikifoundation.org) or call (352) 483-9131 to learn more about becoming a MiniMissionary.

### **Praises:**

- The preschool is finished and our preschoolers have moved into their new classrooms.
- We have experienced good health and safety all around the Village.
- We had a productive and encouraging Home Office visit the first few days of November.
- Rafiki substitute Mother-in-training Aline is learning quickly (and she loves the children).
- Joy in service has been consistently seen by all throughout the Village.
- Children's Christmas letters have been mailed to beloved sponsors.
- Our dedicated MiniMissionaries and sponsors are a great source of joy to everyone at the Village in Rwanda.
- God's provision of six new washable bed pads to protect the sheets and modesty of several of our children who have wet beds each morning.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- A MiniMissionary dentist to be called to the Rafiki Village in Rwanda—it's been over a year since the children have had their teeth cleaned.
- God's assistance to secure approval for our fifteen primary boys to go to our local airport to see, touch, and maybe even board an airplane.
- Wisdom for God's choice of an additional three girls and one boy, two-to-five years of age.
- The Rafiki Mothers, children, staff, and ROS to apply God's Word in our everyday lives as we study the Book of Acts.
- Circumcisions to be done carefully without complication for five of our boys during the Christmas school break—Daniel, Pierre, Blaise, Faustin, and Alex.

*Please pray for Sarah to recover fully and be able to start college in August 2014.*

*Also pray for all medical expenses, not covered by insurance, to be met and for Doug and Carolyn to have completed funding for our next two-year term.*

Thank you for your prayers. We covet them. If you ever want to visit Rwanda, you have a home here with us.

Our love and thanks to all of you,

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

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Our family has a page on Facebook. Go to:

Koepke | Rafiki Village Rwanda

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Koepke-Rafiki-Village-Rwanda/202602403122634>

P.S. From the Home Office: The Koepkes are at 68% of the total funding needed for their next term 7 (January 2013 – December 2014).