



Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

Missionary Newsletter

December 2015 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

"As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).

Dear friends and family,

As we write this newsletter from the U.S., we are giving thanks to God for His care. We are very thankful for good medical care, and for health insurance. Doug hurt his shoulder last February, and is relieved to be on the mend. He is recovering well from rotator cuff surgery, and expects to finish physical therapy the first week of January. A good friend of the family, Josh, is Doug's physical therapist, so they have gotten to spend some quality time together.



We are thankful for the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. It was so encouraging to see the interest in what God is doing through Rafiki as we attended several coffees in Colorado Springs and San Antonio. We look forward to seeing how God will enable Rafiki and U.S. based Christian classical schools to help each other.

Much needed teacher training has begun in an existing building as we look forward to the day when the RALI building will be built and in use.

Rafiki has been given another section of land for a future RALI building.

RALI is short for Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute. This land is being fenced, leveled, and graded in preparation for construction of a RALI building and full sized soccer pitch.



We thank God for the generosity of the local community chief and his family, who previously gave the land where our current Rafiki Village is located.

There is a great need for qualified school teachers in every country in which Rafiki operates. The Rafiki Advanced Learning Institute will produce teachers who are trained in the classical method of instruction. Coupled with Biblical teaching, the classical method integrates a Biblical understanding of what we see in the world with God's mandate to live by His standards. Students who graduate from the Institute will be qualified to open their own schools as well as teach in Rafiki schools. As students learn the fundamentals of Christian classical education, they shadow teachers in the Rafiki schools to see first-hand how this looks in the classroom.

Do you know of a teacher who would be willing to train others in the art of teaching? Rafiki is looking for educators, especially those with experience in the classical method. Many homeschool teachers use the classical method and are prepared to impart their knowledge to the next generation of educators. Graduates of classical schools are uniquely prepared, as they have personally benefited from this style of education. Some universities offer credit for students who intern teach. Whether teaching young students or teaching teachers, opportunities exist through Rafiki for those with an interest in education. Is God

opening a door to you or someone you know, to serve in missions and expand His kingdom?

One of the beneficiaries of Christian classical education is Fidelis. Fidelis is a senior in high school and will graduate this month. As a member of the second graduating class, he is continuing the high standard desired by his mentors. In October, Fidelis started attending a men's Bible Study Fellowship class in Jos. He takes public transport to class, and returns the same way after dark. The year after graduation is filled with high school exams. It's a bit like an SAT or ACT, except that every required subject taken in high school is examined. The testing will not be completed until July. Fidelis has expressed an interest in joining the maintenance team after graduation, which will allow him to see if this is the path that is right for him.



We thank God. . .

- For the Zelisko family, who has opened their home to us again for this extended furlough time.
- For getting to attend Bible Study Fellowship classes we used to attend before going on the mission field.
- For Christian radio in English.
- For the colors of fall.
- For the many faithful Christians and churches who joyfully exalt Jesus at this time of the year.

Please join us in praying. . .

- For Sipiwe, one the Rafiki children in Malawi, who is battling a severe medical condition.
- That each Rafiki student will finish the school year well.
- For wisdom and stamina for our team members still in Nigeria.
- For Doug's shoulder to heal well.

As we enter the season of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus, may our love for Him grow. May that love be seen in acts of loving service that clearly point others toward the one who gave Himself to save His people. And as Luke writes, may we prove to be good soil.

Merry Christmas and our love to you,

Doug & Carolyn

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P.S. From the Home Office: The Koepkes are currently at 53% of the funding needed for their current term 8 (January 2015 – December 2016).