



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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February 2003

Dear Family and Friends,

Typical Rafiki Girls' Center Day?

Last summer many people asked us, "What does a typical day look like?" Now, can any day be truly typical? However, we kept a journal on Monday, January 20, 2003, and this is what we saw.

What Do We Hear?

5:15 a.m.—"Doug, wake up! What's that noise?" "It's your alarm. Turn it off!" Doug is up and downstairs for some quiet time. Now it's Carolyn's turn. Get ready, check e-mail, and grab our lunches.

6:10 A.M.—We are out to the truck and on our way to the *Rafiki* site. Forty minutes down the road and what do we see? Three of our *Rafiki* workers are along the road, looking for a ride. It's Kizito and two of the electricians. We exchange greetings and ask about each other's weekends. Kizito says he was truly blessed. He teaches a four- to six-year-old Sunday school class. Sunday's attendance jumped from 150 to 200 children. Wow, 200 four- to six-year-olds in your Sunday school class?! Can you imagine?

Look Who We See?

6:55 A.M.—James the night guard welcomes us. We stop to say good morning to Art and Karen, our MiniMissionaries. What a joy to have them with us for three weeks. Some of the talents they have shared are plumbing, teaching, cooking, varnishing, and sewing. Karen is a former BSF teaching leader and Art is a retired civil engineer. Doug leaves us to give the devotional and work assignments for about thirty workers.

What's That We Hear?

8:00 A.M.—We hear young girls singing "Holy, Holy, Holy." Shelmith, Faith, Gladys, Damaris, Agnes, Mary, and Perpetua are in morning devotionals with Jane Pope, our *Rafiki* Girls' Center director. Two other girls, Mercy and Veronicah, aren't with us today. We pray they are ok and will come back soon! The attribute study today is "merciful." Faith says "**merciful**" means not being harsh. Jane adds, "It's when God doesn't treat us as we deserve."

It's Time for What?

8:30-9:30 A.M.—Dutch Bylsma, using the book of *John*, is teaching English. Today we learn about statements, commands, and polite requests. Mary is asked to recite Psalm 100. We are "**merciful**" to her because she has not yet memorized it. Most of the other girls have already finished reciting. Now it's teatime, "Agnes, wait for us!"

Sewing What?

9:30-10:30 A.M.—Buttonholes, pillowcases, purses, and pincushions are what we learn about. Jane Pope and Sharon Bylsma are teaching the girls these wonderful skills. This morning Carolyn is assigned to help (?) Shelmith complete a buttonhole. We have a good time laughing at the twisted up result—not much like a buttonhole but more like spaghetti. Karen, our MiniMissionary, is having success cutting out patterns with Perpetua and Gladys. "**Merciful**" is when the girls laughed at the buttonhole and not at me.

Mmm. . . Smell That?

10:30-1 P.M.—Joanne Colvin organizes our cooking class and lunch in the dining room. Donna Read, Betsy Kreamer, or Sharon Bylsma usually assist her with these kitchen duties. Today's menu includes peanut butter sandwiches, bananas, and carrot sticks. Workers are repairing a water heater, so we can't work in the kitchen itself. Damaris and the girls are copying recipes and brainstorming cleanup ideas. **"Merciful"** is working together, being flexible, and still being able to laugh together.

Isn't It Beautiful?

1:00-4:00 P.M.—Dutch Bylsma is in skill training teaching the girls to paint and draw. Today they are hand painting small cards. The *Rafiki* Girls' Center product in Nairobi is to be beautiful painted metal cups and plates. The girls are trying to improve their artistic abilities! **"Merciful"** is seeing the potential in someone beyond their present ability and helping that person achieve it.

Home Again!

5:30-10 P.M.—Doug finishes work with one final check on the worker's progress. Now, it's home to "our own" young girls. Sarah and Rebecca usually begin the day around 6:30 A.M. They get on the bus at 7:30 A.M., ride forty minutes to Rosslyn Academy, and return home at 4:15 P.M. We eat dinner, organize homework, do BSF, catch up on each other's day, and go to bed about 10 P.M. Sarah (six) gets tucked in with hugs and kisses. Rebecca (thirteen) is **"merciful"** to us by saying good night and letting us give her an occasional hug (when we are fast enough to catch her!). **"Merciful"** was felt on our way home today as we saw Kasarani road being graded and some other improvements being made!

Praises

- Kasarani road is being graded—YEAH!
- Peaceful election of a new president
- Construction of the RCC progressing
- Rosemary and visitors coming in February
- Power restored to Doug's BSF class
- Doug was not injured in a December car jacking and his truck was not stolen.

Prayer Requests

- God will give us wisdom and protect us.
- God will select and prepare the hearts of the next six young girls to join the *Rafiki* Girls' Center in April (total of fifteen girls).
- God will give the entire Koepke family organization and good time management skills.
- Rebecca will maintain her grades.
- Sarah will maintain her kind spirit.
- Carol Kranz will return to full health.
- God will finish raising funds for more *Rafiki* staff. We are awaiting Lee Zara, Vivian Rogers, and the Karschney family.

Serving God with you in Nairobi, Kenya,
Doug and Carolyn Koepke, Rebecca, Sarah

*Doug : Carolyn
Rebecca. Sarah*

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NOTE: The *Rafiki* web site has been revised. Please visit at www.rafiki-foundation.org and find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.