



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

February 2017 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12).***

Dear friends and family,

### **Hope and Change**

Can we ever get enough stories about "Hope and Change"? Do you ever wonder if the time, money, and effort spent teaching and mentoring is truly making an eternal difference? We have been steadily preparing the ground (children and staff), planting the seeds (sowing God's Word), and watering the ground (mentoring). God is actively at work in their lives because of (and sometimes in spite of) our best efforts. Now where is the fruit?

Meet Isaac: Isaac came to the Rafiki Village in Nigeria in February of 2004, soon after the Rafiki Village first opened. Isaac's mother died from a long illness when he was three years old and his father was unknown. His elderly grandfather, an impoverished widower, was taking care of Isaac's five older siblings. Social welfare and the grandfather thought it best for Isaac to come to Rafiki Village so he would have a chance to thrive.



Isaac at three years old on left and today at seventeen years old on right

Today Isaac attends a Government Technical High School in Bukuru studying auto mechanics. He stays at the school and comes home during school breaks. He says it is very challenging and not everyone makes it. We just got word of his report. Isaac is first in his class at Bu-Tech! Lots of preparation by many people here at Rafiki helped him apply himself successfully in a new setting.

We know we can do nothing apart from God. We know God is good. We know God is faithful and loves us. And we know we can trust God to complete His plans.

### **Harvest**

What do you do when you are waiting for rain and a fruitful harvest? You put one foot in front of the other and do the work God gives to you each day. You spread fertilizer (God's Word) to make the soil fertile. For Doug that might mean fixing a leaky faucet for the umpteenth time. Carolyn looks at a cut finger and applies ointment and bandaids. Susy teaches her students how to correctly complete math problems—again. Erica patiently helping her students to stand in a straight line and teaching them to sing the hymn of the week for school's opening assembly time.

Your generous prayers, time, and donations to Rafiki are making an impact in so many of the lives around us. You are helping to produce healthy 2 legged fruit!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### **More News:**

- Getting ready for rains—ditch digging, bulldozing, watering, putting in two 100 yard runs of irrigation pipe.



- Guitars—a good one came in the container for Cephas, another donated by a MiniMissionary who also donated one for Epa in Rwanda.
- Choir robes—The children have been molded into a nice sounding choir. We recently received choir robes from the church of Gretchen and Dave Peterson, previous Rafiki Missionaries.

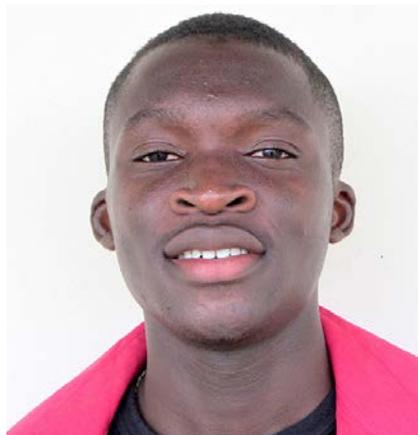
- Organizing a Rafiki Student Council—the older children will meet to learn how to guide and serve others.
- Completing construction of the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE)—the Rafiki teacher training school.

### Prayer Requests:

- Please continue to pray for Jonah who was involved in an accident in September 2016. He is healing but will need at least one more surgery to attach his foot back onto his leg.



- Pray for David who was recently diagnosed with insulin dependent diabetes. He is supposed to begin university this fall; he is adapting quickly.



- Pray for Carolyn and Doug who will be going home to spend six weeks with their family in Texas starting March 2017.
- Pray for everyone at the Village while they are away for safety, protection, few sick children, and few broken pipes.

*Doug & Carolyn*

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P.S. From the Home Office: Carolyn and Doug are currently raising funds needed for their next term #9 (January 2017 – December 2018).