



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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July 2003

Dear Friends and Family,

Here's the latest from Nairobi:



Doug's finger being stitched up

Here's Doug being treated in a makeshift clinic at the girls' center kitchen without lidocaine, instruments sterilized in a kitchen kettle, and a sterile field provided by a surgical drape. Thank you, Dr. Dan, for your expert skills, flexibility, and genuine caring. Carolyn was teaching first aid on wounds and shock to the young girls. Doug provided a live learning opportunity!



Sarah with "baby Carol"

The Koepkes coming home every year?

Rafiki Foundation terms will now be six years with all ROS families coming home every year for five working days of training, ten working days of furlough, and ten working days of vacation. The time home will be in conjunction with the training sessions at the Home Office in San Antonio, Texas, either in December, April, or July. After six years on the field we will have an option of a sabbatical year at home. When we return, we may be assigned to Nairobi or one of the other nine *Rafiki* Villages in Africa.

Rilash accepted Jesus!

A while back I (Doug) told you about our neighbor Rilash and his struggle with accepting Christ. Since I met him, he has been outspoken about the good things that the Christian life does for its adherents and for those who benefit from the blessings that come from an active Christian population. He had plenty of good things to say about Christians, but had not been able to make any commitment himself. Perhaps his Hindu upbringing has had a lot to do with that, but he shared with me recently what his real problem was. He realized his life was falling apart this year. He hasn't had a job for the past two years while he's been going to university. Fortunately, his wife is a dentist and has kept food on the table. He's been out of school for a few months though and has still not been able to get a job. His marriage has been falling apart ever since his wife's mother passed away in January. Her family has been blaming him for a myriad of family difficulties even though he and his wife were taking care of his now deceased mother-in-law and are still taking care of a sister who has Downs syndrome.

In desperation he stopped one day to ask God why he had so many problems. And God spoke clearly and quickly to him. Forgiveness was needed in his heart. He needed to let go of all the bad things that have happened, and forgive. He asked Jesus to forgive him, and is trying to be more accepting of people. We are praying for him also. First, that his faith will grow, and second, that he will find the job God has reserved

for him. He needs a job that will prompt him to grow in faith and trust in Christ and allow him to regain the dignity of providing for his family again. He and his family will be going to church with us. We are thanking God for calling Rilash to Himself and for allowing us to be involved.

Praises

- The minister of finance in Kenya has granted VAT (tax exemption) for the *Rafiki* Children's Center (RCC) of \$72,235.
- Vivian Rogers (our newest team member) has arrived just in time to help with final arrangements for the RCC to open prayerfully at the end of August 2003.
- Interviews for *Rafiki* mothers have been proceeding well and several good potentials have been found.
- Nairobi Children's Home has shared information on about forty abandoned children they would like to bring to *Rafiki*.
- Back up stimma (electricity) is present to the *Rafiki* site in the form of a diesel generator.
- Water from the borehole "well" at *Rafiki* has tested safe to drink.
- The Koepkes have moved all of their belongings to the *Rafiki* site.
- Doug's finger is healing.
- Rebecca and Sarah Koepke have never been happier as they adjust to living at the *Rafiki* center (all smiles).
- Praise to God for a supporter who sent the Koepkes for a week of refreshment, rest, and regrouping as a family.
- Carol Kranz is feeling better and is scheduled to have some final testing done at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on July 21st.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God's choice of the first six *Rafiki* mothers will be clear.
- Pray that God's choice of the first twenty-four children will also be made clear.
- Pray for energy, joy, and God's enabling for team members in Nairobi (about half of our team is on furlough).
- Pray for scheduling wisdom as *Rafiki* will begin to have "yearly" furloughs.
- Pray that Rilash's faith will grow, and secondly that he will find the job God has reserved for him.

- Pray a definitive diagnosis and treatment will be found for Carol Kranz prior to her returning to Nairobi.
- Pray that Carol, Steve (*Rafiki* administrator), and their daughter Cassandra will return to Nairobi at the end of July.
- Pray for physical safety for team members—we have had sprains, broken bones, and torn muscles in the recent months.
- In the hour since I have written this, Rebecca has fallen out of a tree and sprained her ankle. Please pray for quick healing and safety at *Rafiki*.

Visit the *Rafiki* web site at www.rafiki-foundation.org.

- Check out "*Nairobi Kenya- A drive through Kenyan countryside from an ROS (Doug's) point of view*" on the *Rafiki* home page under the "From the Field" section.
- Also look at the African artwork the girls are doing in the *Rafiki* Girls' School.

Serving God with you in Nairobi, Kenya,

*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.