



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4040 • 210-244-2600 • www.rafiki-foundation.org

June 2005

*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”
(Isaiah 41:10).*

Travel to the Airport:

Attention!

(For audiences having trouble with the new language, it really does help to read out loud.)

(Cue *Western music*)

As tha stage lights raise and the western diddies play, we come face-ta-face wid some a tha bravest people a’ all time: two liddel old folks in a stagecoach, drivin’ long tha trail ta pick up ther cargo at tha port. One a these folks can be seen drivin’ the doggies long and tends ta think they’ll move outta tha way ventually. Fer ya non-african/westerners out ther, doggies’re usually cows, but can consist a anythang frum goats ta sheep or real dogs.

Anyhoo, tha trail is long n’ hard an’ sometimes ther’s bandits an’ road blocks. Wid skillful maneuver-ation, ye can get outta any tight situation. Even . . . (Cue tire screeching sound) . . . potholes. This liddel old couple shoudda learn’d ta bring pillas by now. Ther bums’ll tell ‘em that by tomarra mornin’.

After ‘bout two hours a’ roadkill, screechin’ wheels, an’ rain, tha liddel old folks reach ther destination an’ pick up ther cargo: a buncha people that’r dog-tired and fallin’ ‘sleep on themselves. These youngins’ll act like this fer a couple a’ days, but give ‘em some TLC and plenty a’ chow and they’ll perk right up. Just like petunias.

They say gettin’ there’s half tha fun, n’ that’s so, cus tha oth’r half is goin’ back home.

So, this doesn’t sound like a regular trip to you? Well it does to anyone living out at the Rafiki Village Kenya. Regular trips to

the airport are made to pick up our MiniMissionaries, and many of the road trips look a lot like the scene described above, minus the western tunes and the stagecoach.

Travel into Western Kenya:

Driving through western Kenya, however, is a real treat. As we leave Nairobi, the road climbs all the way to the Rift Valley escarpment, where the view is absolutely breathtaking. The Rift Valley is a 1000 foot deep valley that is sixty miles wide and extends from the Dead Sea all the way into the heart of Africa. As we descend into the valley, extinct volcanoes and lakes greet us. There are a host of different animals along the way. In fact, the Masai Mara, Kenya’s most outstanding national park, lies south of us by only a couple hours drive. Zebra, gazelle, and baboons roam freely throughout this area, ignoring the goats, donkeys, and cattle who call this place home.

Dairy farms dominate the landscape, shaded by umbrella shaped acacia trees. Climbing up the other side of the valley, the savanna gives way to an abundance of trees, farms, and an explosion of greenery. The abundance of rainfall is evident, as banana trees and hill-after-hill of field corn testify. Small farms slowly give way to large plantations of tea. As far as the eye can see, tea bushes trimmed to elbow height show the contour of every rolling hill, with rows of deciduous trees standing guard at the edges of each field.

Kericho is located in the heart of tea country, and is easily one of the most beautiful places we have seen in Kenya. But far from being on a sightseeing tour, we have come to Kericho for a far more

valuable commodity than tea. Many children in this area have been left as orphans, mostly by AIDS. So much so, that Africa Inland Church has established a home for babies. It is known as *Mogogosiek*, or "the place of thorns and thunder." We arrived late in the afternoon, expecting to medically screen two girls who live at this home. To our surprise, three other girls have been brought from local villages by their family members to see if they, too, can qualify for admission to our children's center. Only one child could meet the guidelines, so she was checked by Dr. Pope, who drew blood samples and performed an HIV test. She passed! Within another hour, the two girls we had originally come to see had also completed their medical screening and passed with flying colors. Adding to our excitement, three boys who had already been medically screened on a prior trip were now ready to join us for the trip back to Nairobi. So early the next morning, three boys rode to Rafiki Village in one *Pajero*, followed closely by three girls in another *Pajero*, the one which we drove.

Of course, these two- and four-year-old girls were a bit distressed to be leaving in a car with two people they didn't know, and their sobbing started even before the car doors closed. But as soon as we started talking to each other, all three girls stopped crying so they could hear our voices. It wasn't long before one started singing to herself and another was making little clucking noises with her tongue. The six-hour drive back to Nairobi was pleasantly peaceful.

All six children have settled into their new homes with new brothers and sisters, and most happily, each child now has a new Rafiki Mother who loves them.

Travel Home:

If you would like to have a coffee or you have any questions, please contact:

Portland Mithen
Home: (972) 231-1806
Cell: (214) 675-8482
E-mail: txrafikirep@comcast.net

Here is a list of the coffees:

Wednesday, June 29th
Grace Lutheran Church
Bible Study and Prayer Group
642 Amarillo Street, Abilene TX 79602
Contact: Edie Deichmann
Phone: (325) 677-3003
E-mail: wwed1@juno.com

Monday, July 11th, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Evening Fellowship
Meg and Mike Wiersema
732 Cottonwood Bend Dr, Allen TX 75002
Home: (972) 359-7765 Cell: (972) 998-3402
E-mail: megfw@juno.com

Wednesday, July 13th, 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
First United Methodist Church
5601 Pleasant Run Rd, Colleyville TX 76034
Contact: Diane Lee (817) 571-6563
Cell: (817) 637-5485
E-mail: jdlee@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, July 16th, 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
Evening Fellowship
Dana and Mike Cooper
1411 Verano Dr, Dallas TX 75208
Phone: (214) 320-0880
E-mail: DCGabby@aol.com

Sunday, July 17th, Sunday School Hour
Our Savior Lutheran Church
4933 S. 7th St, Abilene TX 79605
Contact: Denise Koepke
Phone: (325) 698-1824
E-mail: denise1241@juno.com

Our love to you,

*Doug, Carolyn
Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke
PO Box 25372
Nairobi Kenya 00603
EAST AFRICA

E-mail: koepkes@swiftkenya.com

To receive our monthly prayer letter via e-mail, please write our prayer captain, John Paul, at j.pb@networkabilene.com.