



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 1988 • Eustis FL 32727-1988 • 407-557-2850 • FAX: 352-483-9132

June 2008

“If the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive” (Psalm 124:2-3).

Rioting in the streets. The burning of a Lutheran church in Nairobi Kenya with some people of the “wrong tribe” left inside. After the fire a page from a Bible was found. Psalm 124 was the only thing left on that page. A young man who grew up in that church tells his story after the fire. Josephat was baptized at the Kibera Church in 1984. He attended catechism classes and was confirmed in that church. He says he was “pulled to the church” by his mother as he grew up. He was blessed with a mom who realized the importance of faith. To him the salvation of that page from the Bible has two important meanings: 1) Many of our congregation lost property—but none of us lost our lives; 2) The church still stands and is still united. We are of all tribes but we have a united congregation. He says, “After the fire the church sought to reach out to those who burnt our church. The buildings of the church may be burnt, but most important is that we have become strengthened in our faith and even grown in recognizing the importance of forgiveness



SARAH AND HANNAH

and healing across ethnic lines in our community as a God-willed desire for us. In other words—rather than running from God—the burning of the church has helped us run to God.” Much evil has been done in post election Kenya but the healing has started.

Koepkes on Furlough During Summer of 2008

We are home this summer and then not for another two years (2010). We are excited to meet with so many wonderful people who are interested in His work in Africa through Rafiki. If you are able to attend one of these coffees, we would love to spend time with you—Carolyn 325-518-0592; Doug 325-518-9937.

June 20 – 21 Eustis, Florida, Rafiki Home Office
407-557-2850

June 22 – 29 St. Augustine, Florida
Deniakos Home, 904-829-5223

June 30 – July 4 Eustis, Florida, Rafiki Home Office
Enrichment Week

July 5 or 6 Arkadelphia, Arkansas Coffee
Hosts: Barbara 870-230-2352; Pat 870-230-3145
Gillum Home: 870-246-4474

July 13 Viborg, South Dakota
Spring Valley Lutheran Church
Pastor Unzicker: unzicker@byelectric.com

July 23 Edmond, Oklahoma
Contact: Sandra Keller kellers1613@hotmail.com

July 24 Colleyville, Texas
Hosts: Diane and Jim Lee
Home: 817-571-656-3817
Diane’s cell: 817-637-5485

July 25 Abilene (Tentative) Ice Cream Social
Grace Lutheran Church
Contact: Lisa Snow 325-537-2446

July 26 Houston Coffee
Contact: Bridget Fernandes 281-881-2277
bridget.fernandes@gmail.com

August 6 Return to Kenya

News:

- Because we needed to leave Nairobi in the middle of May, Sarah missed the last two weeks of school. She seems to have gotten over it though, and is thoroughly enjoying her extended summer!
- We stopped in Chicago and had three coffees hosted by Debbie Sweet and Rita Versendaal, who are serving as MiniMissionaries in Nairobi at this time.
- Doug and Rebecca sang a duet at our home church.
- Prices continue to rise in Kenya. Fuel is now \$1.60 a liter (over \$6.00 a gallon) and inflation is twenty-one percent.
- During the clinic, our three doctors were able to see 1,170 patients. Sixteen patients were newly diagnosed as being HIV positive.

Thanksgiving:

- God’s provision of safety to our Village and family during post election rioting and violence in Kenya. The election violence seems to be behind us and peace has returned.
- There are currently eighty children at the Village.

- Elijah continues speech therapy and is showing slow progress.
- Thanks for Susan and Bob Hegel. Our dryer has been repaired! Our dryer broke at the beginning of May and replacement belts are not available in Kenya, so we have had to air-dry all laundry.
- Thank you to all who prayed fervently for all of the ROS and MiniMissionaries during the unrest earlier this year. God answered your prayers magnificently.
- Thank you to all who have volunteered to host a coffee this year. Over half of these people are doing this for the first time.
- Giving God thanks for the McReynolds family who graciously took us into their home.
- God has blessed the Village with more rain.
- Doug Koepke, Tim Cagwin, and Tom Kreamer met with our older boys for four weeks to discuss issues associated with puberty.
- The children and mothers were able to get check-ups during the community clinic.



ABIGAIL AND STELLA

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for those who are working hard at filling the gaps while we are on furlough—Julie, Anne, Tim, Yeen-Lan, Liz, and our precious MiniMissionaries.
- Continued peace in Kenya as the investigation into the post election violence continues.
- Sustenance of power and water
- God to convict all Rafiki staff to be honest and upright in all areas of their life.
- Child sponsors to send a picture of themselves to the children because they have been asking to see pictures of their sponsors.
- God to draw to Himself our eleven children who are taking catechism classes and will be confirmed on June 15

- God to provide MiniMissionary men who will come and be involved with our older boys. Many of these boys are developing an interest in how things are put together and would love someone to work with them to put together puzzles, erector sets, model airplanes, etc.
- Our mothers to have energy, strength, joy, and the ability to provide consistent discipline for the ten children in their cottages
- Wisdom for all as the children are very curious about their bodies
- God's provision of a residence hall and a godly couple to care for our older boys
- God to provide one more mother so we can open another cottage to be home to ten more of God's orphans in Kenya
- Quick recovery for one of our mothers who had surgery

One of the things that has impressed us is the concern so many have expressed for God's people around the world. At one church, several people inquired how they could come on MiniMission trips. At another coffee, they had already collected clothing and other essentials for two of their own to carry to Kenya. One man who recently returned from Kenya donated electrical tools and supplies. Our home church in Abilene has taken in two families of refugees from Burundi. Who would have thought that Kiswahili could come in handy in Abilene, Texas?! It seems that everywhere we go God has raised up mission-minded Christians who are actively walking the talk, and generously loving their neighbors. Of all the things we are thankful for, we are most thankful for you.

We thank God each of you. You have made it possible for our family to serve in Kenya since 2000. We are praying that God will allow us more years to serve Him in Africa.

Love,

*Doug, Carolyn
Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke

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EAST AFRICA