



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

June 2013 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked"*** (Psalm 146:7-9).

Dear family and friends,

We rejoice that Mike and Vicky Koch are back with us after a couple months in the U.S. Mike had knee surgery, so he is using a cane. Please remember to pray for his healing and for pain and swelling to go away.



Erica Robertson has transferred to Rafiki Village Nigeria, and leaves big shoes to fill. Kelly Fore has stepped into the Headmaster position, and is doing an admirable job of leading the school and teachers.

A new school—Construction on the preschool is progressing well. Now that the rainy season has ended, it has become much easier for the men to build. Roof trusses and windows are being built, and should be put in place by the end of June.



Preschool construction

A large group of MiniMissionaries (thirteen!) will be arriving to help during June and July. There are a wide variety of activities—enough for every person to contribute in a meaningful way: tutoring in the school, facilitating GAMES, teaching children how to swim, teaching English to Rafiki Mothers, adding to scrapbooks, enrichment time with the children, sports time, helping with maintenance, taking kids for immunizations, taking pictures and collecting stories to share back in the U.S., etc. Never a dull moment! If you would like to take part, please contact Rafiki Home Office. There is a place everyone!



Carolyn will be traveling to Texas to be with our daughter Sarah during a procedure. Hopefully it will help to relieve some or all of the pain she has been experiencing over the past year. She had a blood clot in her left leg in April of 2012 and has been battling pain ever since. The first procedure, the stimulator trial, happens on March 4th. Then the temporary unit will be removed a few days later. If the stimulator trial is successful, Sarah will have a surgical procedure the next week to place a permanent neuro-stimulator. It will be kind of like a person who has pacemaker under the skin. But, instead of sending electrical impulses to the heart it will send them to nerves in her back. A small box will be surgically placed in her hip area. A wire will go to the spinal cord to stimulate the nerves that are sending pain messages to her left leg. She will trade the pain in her left leg for numbness. Then

she starts the process of weaning off of narcotics. We also found a counselor who specializes in chronic pain patients. Carolyn will be in Texas until July 22nd.

### **Thanksgiving:**

- God has provided insurance coverage for Sarah.
- The children at Rafiki are soaking in God's Word and are healthy and happy.
- God helped Doug with the finances while Mike and Vicky were in the U.S.
- All staff members are working together in harmony.
- Construction is progressing smoothly, with no injuries or accidents.
- For all of those who faithfully pray and financially support this ministry.
- For reliable e-mail and Skype access.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Please pray for minimal jet lag for Carolyn.
- Pray for the doctor to have wisdom and for the neuro-stimulator to completely block the pain Sarah has been having in her left leg.
- Pray for Sarah's successful transition off of the pain medications she has been on over the last year. Right now she sleeps about half of every day because of the drowsiness from the meds.
- Pray that Sarah will be able to start college in Abilene in January of 2014 and be successful in walking around campus and thrive there.
- Lastly, pray for Doug who will be in Rwanda without Carolyn for the next seven weeks. We are going to miss each other. But, Doug has his hands busy building the new preschool and Carolyn will be busy helping Sarah. We covet your prayers very much.

Love,

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

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