



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

June 2014 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven"***  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Dear friends and family,

### **A Time to Say Farewell**

Recently we received a message from the Rafiki Home Office requesting a couple who would be willing to volunteer to move to Nigeria. This has never crossed our minds before—we had hopes of staying in Rwanda ten years, just like our stay in Kenya.

### **A Time to Say Hello**

However, as we began to understand the need in Nigeria, we also felt God nudge us to trust Him in this. So, the current plan is for us to move to Jos, Nigeria in the middle of August.

### **A Time for Family**

For the past two months we have enjoyed having Sarah here with us. For Sarah, it has been a time to rest and reconnect with the children and the staff. For us, it seems like the time has flown by. One really nice thing that happened as a result of Sarah being here is we needed to go to Nairobi, Kenya for some of her meds, and that allowed all of us to visit with the Rafiki Village and children there. It is pretty amazing how tall they are since we left there four years ago!



Sarah, Carolyn and Doug with children at Rafiki Village Rwanda

### **A Time for Work**

Doug has been working on building a Junior Secondary School. Men started digging foundation trenches on April 2, and two months later the walls are up! This is easily the fastest progress of any construction project Doug has done so far. The

plan is to have the roof done by July 5, and have all walls, floors, wiring, doors, and windows in by August 8. God has mercifully held off the seasonal rains, and that has helped tremendously. Outside the school, sidewalks are going in and landscaping and planting of grass is underway. Doug is planning on traveling back to Texas on August 8, so you can see what wonderful things can happen in the face of a deadline.



New Junior Secondary School being built

### **A Time to Sing**

Our pastor invited the Rafiki children's choir to sing at a local crusade, which was sponsored by all of the protestant churches in Nyamata. They sang in Kinyarwanda, and got to experience a crusade for the first time.

### **A Time for Art and Music**

During Art and Music Appreciation Day, the children presented songs from *The Sound of Music*. It was a time for all of us to come together to relax and listen to the kids singing, and playing recorders, guitar, and keyboard. Of course, they did great. Many of the parents of our day students attended, and it was easy to see from their smiles and chuckles that they too were pleased with how well the kids did. Epa played guitar while his class sang "Edelweiss," and Doug was like a proud papa as Epa performed without a hint of nervousness. When Doug travels to the U.S. in August, he will

return with a nice guitar which has been donated by a wonderful person. Epa will move up from the plastic strings of a classical guitar to a "real" guitar.



### Praises

- New opportunities before us at Rafiki Village Nigeria as we get to work with friends Melanie Martin, Erica Robertson, and Laura Farmer!
- Sarah flew internationally again and did pretty well. At one time, the doctors doubted she would ever be able to do so. She is slowly healing.
- Construction is progressing smoothly and quickly —no serious injuries.
- Everyone at the Rafiki Village has been relatively healthy.
- Our family in the States allows us to live in Africa for such a time as this.

### A Time to Serve

One of our favorite MiniMissionaries, Juliet, has returned for a two-month stay. She brings a lot of joy and exuberance, which is a wonderful package, into everyone's life. For those of you who are over fifty like we are, you understand completely! She has helped tutor students, chaperoned sleepovers for the older girls, and generally taken a great interest in promoting fun activities for the kids. In the picture they are making brownies!



### Prayer Requests

- We request you to please pray that we use this time wisely—a time to finish well, a time to say goodbyes well, a time to figure out what to take and what to leave behind, a time to transfer responsibilities to others, a time to let go and let God take control.
- Sarah travels to the U.S. in mid-June. Please pray for her safety and continued healing.
- We need work visas in Nigeria before we travel; it can take a while.
- A strong and victorious finish in Rwanda. We have lots of things to wrap up.
- That we courageously embrace the new opportunities God sets before us in Nigeria with open arms and willing hearts (and strong backs)!

Love,

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

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