



Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

Missionary Newsletter

June 2017 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work" (1 Corinthians 3:10-13 NIV).



Dear friends and family,

How do we reach the next generation? One-fourth of all human beings will be on the continent of Africa within the next thirty years. The Rafiki children you are partnering with us to raise will be the generation in leadership positions at that time. By God's grace, they will be influencing their churches, families, and communities for God's glory. Rafiki's goal is to prepare and nurture Rafiki children into adulthood as ardent and eloquent disciples of Jesus Christ.

The children at the Rafiki Village Nigeria where we continue to serve are healthy and growing. Jonah's broken leg continues to make good progress in healing. He is now walking with crutches and is able to put some weight on his injured leg. David is managing his diabetes by testing his blood sugar and giving himself twice daily insulin injections.

Ten African countries had previously invited The Rafiki Foundation to build and run children's homes to help care for Africa's many orphans. These same countries are now changing their approach to orphan care. They are re-focusing their efforts to provide orphan care in extended family foster care and away from residential care homes. At the same time, our partner churches in these same ten African countries are asking Rafiki to now make evangelizing through education our main mission work. Therefore, our Rafiki Board of Directors made the decision that Rafiki

would not bring more orphans to live in the Rafiki Villages. So over the next ten plus years, we will be slowly transitioning into a day-student only school campus. What does that mean for us?

Does this mean there is no more need for the ChildCare Program? Absolutely not. We still have 850 children, youth, and teens in our care across Africa. Rafiki will continue to care for these children until they become adults. By God's grace they will be trained in God-given professions and find their proper places in society. One of the ways we hope to accomplish this is by providing our children the opportunity to visit their home villages during school breaks and stay with extended family members. This is proving to be a very effective method to help teach our Rafiki children how to properly function in Nigerian society.

Eight of our most recent high school graduates are taking post-secondary exams and preparing to join our other eight Rafiki children at Bingham University. In the meantime, they work around the Village in a variety of ways—helping maintenance and grounds keeping staff, tutoring students, and assisting in the Rafiki Institute for Classical Education (RICE) Program. We will miss them but look forward to school breaks.

MiniMissionaries Kathy and Bob returned for three weeks and have cleaned all of our resident children's teeth! They have served at the Rafiki Village in Nigeria many times and the children were delighted to see them again. The last time they visited Nigeria was in 2011.



Carolyn and Rafiki Mother Hellen recently went to visit Isaac who is attending a technical college majoring in auto-mechanics. He finished first in his class last year and continues to do well.



The RICE buildings are almost complete. It will be the last set of buildings to be constructed on our campus. There may be more buildings later but nothing is in the plans at this time. Doug took this drone picture (pardon the blur) that also includes our family gardens.



Love,

Doug & Carolyn

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WEST AFRICA

Missionary #102

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P.S. From the Home Office: The Koepkes are currently at 43% of the funding needed for their current term 9 (January 2017 – December 2018).