



# The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 1988 • Eustis FL 32727-1988 • 352-483-9131 • FAX: 352-483-9132

March 2010

*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones”*

(1 Thessalonians 3:12-13).

In the first few months of this year we have seen much growth; in the children, in the Rafiki schools, and in our family. Some of our first children, Kevin, Paul, and Ibrahim are entering their teens and their voices are beginning to change. We knew this day would come, but it is still surprising to watch these children grow and mature. By God’s grace they are also becoming more responsible. Rafiki Village schools have filled to eighteen students per classroom by adding needy students from the surrounding community. Now the community students (ninety-one) slightly outnumber our resident children (ninety). A new children’s cottage (Zion) is also nearing completion, so our number of resident children will soon grow to 100!

## Lillian’s story:



This story is about a little girl named Lillian.

Lillian’s teenage mother gave birth to her and a twin brother. Her mother kept the baby boy but abandoned Lillian. She was rescued by a Good Samaritan who then unexpectedly died. Found a few days later in the lady’s house, Lillian was malnourished and severely dehydrated,

but alive. At four months of age she again had no one to care for her. A local pastor’s teenage daughter offered to take care of her. But the pastor’s family was already big and he struggled to care of one more child. The pastor tried to return Lillian to her mother but the mother refused to care for her and severed all rights to the child. Since that time the child has been back and forth between temporary caregivers. No one wanted her. She was not thriving. Lillian is two and one-half years old but looks like a twelve-month-old baby. She continues to

face challenges, but by God’s grace has been strong enough to survive. *Please pray for Zion Cottage to be completed soon so Lillian can come home to Rafiki and be part of a new family who wants her and loves her.*

One of our joys is that Sarah is spending more time at home with us. She does her school work on a laptop. Each day begins with math, science, English, social studies, health, and Spanish. On Mondays she goes to violin lessons. By lunch time she has completed all of her school work!

## Sarah and Doug cutting trees



In the afternoons Sarah rarely misses an opportunity to help her dad with building and maintenance projects. Over the past few months she has been learning to weld, solder electronic items, and use power tools. She crawls in attics to pull wires and helps her dad work on our truck.

## Sarah, Dr. Elaine, Dana, and Dr. Bob



But Sarah’s main interest is in “all things medical.” She has plenty to keep her busy helping with children while Carolyn treats patients. She wants to study medicine.

### **Headmaster Education Training:**

Every week, headmasters from partner church schools come in to be trained in methods of integrating the Bible into normal classroom subjects. Doug has been remodeling a building into a guest training cottage. It should be ready by April.

Jerusalem Training Cottage—before remodel



Jerusalem Training Cottage—after remodel



### **Trees to build new furniture:**

Because of prolonged drought and recent heavy rains, numerous trees have either died or fallen down. A group of men who specialize in making lumber from trees came to help. As a result, we have hundreds of board feet of lumber with which to build furniture for both cottages.

### **Furlough 2010 and 2011:**

This year we will come back to the U.S. for a one-month furlough. We arrive in Texas on June 2 and depart again on July 4. We will be making doctor visits, driving to South Dakota to see family, and end our time with a week at Rafiki Home Office in Florida. We hope to visit with most of you—our family and friends. If for some reason we are not able to visit with you this year, we trust God will make that possible next year. In May of 2011 Rebecca graduates from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, so we will spend three months visiting with family and friends before returning for another two years of work in Kenya.

### **Praise God that:**

- After five weeks, the internet connection in this Village has been restored.
- After three years of drought, rain is falling on a regular basis again.
- Carolyn was able to attend a medical conference in February. This fulfilled the requirements for continuing education for both U.S. and Kenyan nursing certification.

- Our children will be able to go to a play based on the Dr. Seuss children's books in April at Rosslyn Academy.
- Our team member Julie has been such a wonderful friend and mentor to our youngest daughter Sarah. She is like a big sister to Sarah.
- The ten children who arrived November 20 have settled nicely.
- Provision of a new hearing aid for Elijah after one of his became damaged beyond repair.

### **Please pray for God to:**

- Impress on each person working in this ministry to embrace God's call to minister wholeheartedly.
- Lead these children to receive Him to be their Lord and Savior and increasingly love Jesus.
- Clear up health issues for Glen.
- Give protection and safety, especially on the roads.
- Provide sponsors for our ten newest children. Would you prayerfully consider a gift as low as \$25 per month to help sponsor one of these children? Or would you pray for one of these children every day by name? Their names are: Anne, Monica, Rahab, Michael, John, Naomi, James K., Nancy, Joyce, and James W. (and Lilian).
- Help Elijah to be careful with and appreciate his recently purchased new hearing aid.
- Cause the magistrate to be willing to commit our ten newest children HERE on Friday, March 12, when they come to inspect our Village.
- Send more Rafiki Mothers as we receive more children. With more children, comes the need for more mothers.

Love and thank you for your prayers,

*Doug, Carolyn  
Rebecca, Sarah*

Doug, Carolyn, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke

Lavington  
PO Box 25372  
00603 Nairobi, Kenya  
EAST AFRICA

E-mail [koepkes@gmail.com](mailto:koepkes@gmail.com)

ROS # 102

Prayer captain Georgi: [georgi@georgiduwe.com](mailto:georgi@georgiduwe.com)