



Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

Missionary Newsletter

March 2013 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world"
(James 1:27).



Dear family and friends,

Doug and Carolyn are starting their seventh two-year term with Rafiki Foundation. Come join us in serving God by serving the orphaned children in Africa and teaching them about His love for them. Our days are never boring and often include unexpected blessings.

Doug has been working on a new fort with monkey bars and a bridge, which was given by a generous family. One day he received a special note from one of the children. *"To Uncle Doug, God bless you. You are my best friend. Thank you for making the fort and bridge. I love you very, very much".* Love, Centia

This week one of our blessings included news that God has provided funds to begin building a much-needed pre-school. In the next couple months much needs to be done: excavating for the foundation, putting in ground beams, in-ground plumbing, and laying the floor slab. Block making has begun and thousands of them will be made by the time the floor is done.

Another unexpected blessing was welcoming a new child "home to Rafiki". Our newest child is eighteen-month-old Jean (pronounced John). Local officials asked Rafiki to help him after his mother died, leaving him with no family. Neighbors who

were caring for Jean had two children of their own and were expecting a new baby soon. They were all living in part of a half built structure. He desperately needed rescuing.



Jean's homecoming picture with Rafiki Mother Jeannette holding him tight

Jean has begun settling in with his new family. Rafiki Mother Jeannette introduced him to his four new brothers, who welcomed him with open arms. He can be seen with his brothers, who excitedly take his hand to help him explore his new home.

Each morning everyone at Rafiki gathers to sing praises to God, to pray, and to study God's Word. We study using the Rafiki Bible Study (RBS), which is a thirteen-year survey of the Bible with lessons appropriate for each age level, from pre-school to adult. RBS is also an integral part of the Rafiki school curriculum, through which the children receive a quality education integrated with a biblical worldview.

This is happening in all ten Rafiki Villages, and in each church school which partners with Rafiki. It is no exaggeration to say that God is using the RBS to change tens of thousands of hearts across Africa! Rafiki seeks to cultivate minds and hearts to love God, to love their neighbors, and to love all that is true, good, and beautiful, and the RBS is making a great impact. Doug and I have the privilege to participate in, as well as lead the Rafiki Bible Study.

One of our Rafiki teachers recently shared that the RBS has taught him about who God is and what His attributes are. He said he had never learned so much about God before, and this has made a big difference in his life. It has also helped him be much more effective in sharing the gospel message with others, including his students.

Praises:

- Thank you for your prayers and support. You are a vital part of this ministry.
- We thank God for His provision and protection of our family in the States.
- We are especially thankful for God's provision and protection of our daughter, Sarah, who is finishing her senior year and staying with Doug's wonderful mom in Texas.
- Soon we will have sixty-eight precious children living at Rafiki.
- God sent us help when we needed it most to fill four national staff vacancies with good, conscientious people who love God and the children.
- MiniMissionaries Kelly and John are coming to the Rafiki Village, just in time to help.
- We are especially thankful for your notes sent to encourage us.

Prayer Requests:

- Complete funding for the Koepke's seventh term
- Health, energy, and God's enablement for us to carry out His call to serve Him by serving the children at the Rafiki Village in Rwanda
- Each child will be called into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ
- Good health for the children and Rafiki staff who have been coughing a lot
- All the children to be fully sponsored
- Children who struggle with self-control
- Continued good relationships with government officials in our area
- For all of us to learn more about God who loves and cares for each of us

Wishing you a wonderful Easter,

Doug, Carolyn & Sarah

Carolyn and Doug Koepke
PO Box 6856
Kigali, Rwanda
EAST AFRICA

E-mail: koepkes@gmail.com

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