



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

March 2015 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7 NIV).***



### **Facelift**

The whole Village is undergoing a makeover. The girls and boys formed painting teams and a little friendly competition has been a good thing. It's been wonderful to watch their joy and servant's hearts as they move everything into place the evening before, tape off lines, and then begin painting as early as 6:30 AM (their choice!). Each cottage has received a fresh coat of paint inside and out. Next the primary, pre-primary, and dining hall buildings were treated to the same. The girls (and some boys) clearly demonstrate attention to detail and tidiness. When they painted their own cottages, it looked like the work of a professional paint crew! The next weekend the girls painted the boys' cottages. Their painting skills have been refined so well they could easily pursue a career in painting someday if they choose. A pleasant development is that the painting teams have begun asking permission to paint almost every Saturday.

### **God Purifies Us Daily**

During the dry season, rain doesn't fall for about six months. As the water table drops, three boreholes struggle to keep up with demand. Water usage is carefully monitored, leaks repaired immediately, and borehole pumps are checked every day. With fourteen water tanks in use, we need to quickly see the water level in each tank.

Recently, we made a forge to melt scrap aluminum into parts needed for water level indicators. The children were fascinated by the process of melting aluminum and casting it into different useful shapes. After the scraps are broken up they are put into a crucible.

As the aluminum melts, the impurities rise to the surface and are lifted off, resulting in a molten puddle that is nearly mirror-like. Then it's poured into molds and the castings are machined to the proper shapes. The analogy of God refining us, like we refine aluminum, is easier for the children to grasp when they see refining with their own eyes. God breaks down our pride, refines us, and then chips away those attitudes and behaviors that are un-Christ like. What's left is a reflection of God's own character which is evident for all to see. If the proper reflection is not there, either more heat or more chipping needs to be done.



## Meet Dorcas

Dorcas was referred to Rafiki when she was three years old. She was abandoned by both parents at birth and was being cared for by a state-run orphanage.



Dorcas July 2003—three years old

Dorcas is now fifteen and has a heart for Christ. She loves reading and writing poems. Her favorite subject is math. She asks for prayers that God will strengthen her so she will be able to do the right thing at the right time and to understand what God wants her to do as an adult. She's in ninth grade and will soon take a Basic Education Certificate Examination. *Pray for her to study effectively for this examination.*



Dorcas now—fifteen years old

## Luke, Lydia, Cephas, and Doug

One of our greatest pleasures is an abundance of music in the air. The children have been coached

to sing in harmony, and quite a few play musical instruments. Doug plays guitar with Lydia, Luke, and our newest musician—Cephas. What has been surprising is the number of hymns and songs we have heard for the first time. The standard Nigerian hymn book has 1,200 hymns, of which we only know about 200. Just as Cephas is refining his new found skill, we too are learning and enjoying new (to us) melodies and lyrics.



## Praises:

- The children value the privilege of contributing to the Village
- God's protection
- Reliable internet
- Fun and loving team members

## Prayer Requests:

- Every child to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord
- More Rafiki Mothers and teachers
- Peaceful and fair elections
- Continued safety and encouragement as we live in a sometimes difficult place
- God to capture the heart of every Nigerian and use them to do His work
- For God to keep our family in the States safe and healthy

Love,

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

Carolyn and Doug Koepke  
Rebecca and Sarah  
PMB 2714, Anglo-Jos  
Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria  
WEST AFRICA

E-mail: koepkes@gmail.com

Missionary #102

P.S. From the Home Office: The Koepkes are at 28% of the funding needed for their current term 8 (January 2015 – December 2016).