



Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

Missionary Newsletter

March 2016 – Doug and Carolyn Koepke

"Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:5 NIV).

Dear friends and family,

Rachel's Rafiki Family:

Rachel came to Rafiki when she was 1½ years old. As a result of complications during her delivery, she has a learning disability. Regular school classes have been very trying for her, so we have been praying that some other avenue would be open for her to continue to receive an education. Recently, Rachel began attending a school for children with similar challenges. She rides into town each morning with one of the Rafiki Mothers and attends school for four to five hours. What a huge change this is from before, both in the number hours that she is learning and in her desire to participate in classroom activities. We give God the thanks for making this available to Rachel. *We request your prayers that this would continue to be a place where Rachel can thrive academically as she grows into a young lady.*



Rachel before coming to Rafiki and Rachel today

We are thankful to be back in Nigeria after an extended stay in the U.S. as Doug healed from shoulder surgery. Thank you for all of your prayers. He is progressing well, and doing his PT exercises each day. Several projects have been tackled—upgrades and painting of the kitchen, retiling of the bathroom in the Boys Residence Hall, and remodeling of a school room into a place for teachers to be trained in the classical method. Contractors have been invited to submit bids for the construction of the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE) building, which incorporates eight classrooms for a teacher's college, a stage for performances, and a gymnasium.

A local school recently held an invitational track

meet. Our school fielded girls and boys teams for the quarter mile relay race. The boys took second place and the girls placed first. Great fun was had by all, and both teams brought home their trophies—high quality English dictionaries for the school.



Girls track team



Boys track team

Our most recent high school graduates are staying busy. Fidelis is working with the maintenance team, and is doing very well. Blessing, Ruth, Maggie, and Deborah are working in the school library, teaching classes, and assisting teachers in the various schools. They are all attending a Young Adults BSF class in Jos as well. They are also studying every day for the big exams which come in the year following high school graduation. The girls went back to their families during the last school break, and we are delighted to

know that their families were very protective of them.

Rafiki has recently begun the study of the Gospel of John. Morning devotion time has been full of lively discussion as we examine the positions that various local churches have regarding baptism, the person of Mary, and alcohol (Jesus turning water into wine). Every day, we are reminded that the Bible is the ultimate authority—not denominations, individual preachers, or even our own personal ideas. The movie “The Gospel of John” is circulating throughout the Village, as each evening it is being used as a part of evening devotions. We are praying and trusting that God will move the hearts of some of our teenagers during this study to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

A container full of U.S. items arrived this week from the Home Office. It was a bit like Christmas in March, as curriculum, lawnmowers, education supplies, copiers, etc., were unloaded and put in the right places around the Village. What a huge blessing!



Our youngest daughter Sarah is taking her first college class—developmental psychology. We are so thankful for this new chapter in her life.

Prayer request: Good visits for those children who will spend the school break with their extended families

Thank you for your kindness to us in the U.S. and your continued prayers and encouragement. They mean a lot to us.

Love,

Doug & Carolyn

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