



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

19001 Huebner Road #2 • San Antonio TX 78258-4038 • 210-244-2600 • www.rafiki-foundation.org

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*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”*
(1 Timothy 4:12).

Who in your life has been a strong, godly influence—an example for you to try to follow as a Christian? It seems that much of the time, God uses people who do not realize the impact their “normal” lives have on those around them.

First of all, we want to thank God for you. For your partnership in the gospel, and for the warm encouragement you gave us as we visited with you during July. It was wonderful to be able to hear your stories as well as share ours. Thank you for hosting us, for the coffees you held, the questions you asked, and for “sending us out” again. Every day that goes by we realize what a privilege we have been given to serve our Lord here in Kenya. Thank you for your generosity. You have been an example of gracious service for us to follow.

What happens when the U.S. or Kenyan national anthem is being played? People stop what they are doing. They stand respectfully and wait until the song is finished playing. Yesterday Doug watched the construction workers do this. They stopped working when the RCC children went by singing, on their way to the playground. It seems as though the workers recognized something special was happening. They watched because the children were singing songs about the Lord Jesus. The children were not singing for those who were listening. They are simply happy to sing to the Lord Jesus regardless of who is watching. Little do they realize, they were being a godly influence.

On Saturday, things are a bit quieter here since there is no school for the RCC and RGC. The children look forward to morning and afternoon sessions at the playground.

This is also a good time for ROS to play with the children. Games like Duck-duck-goose, freeze tag (which looks more like a whole group of children chasing an ROS around the field), and pushing swings.



One Sunday we stayed home from church and taught Sunday school for the RCC kids who are not old enough to make the long walk into Mwiki. Using puppets, we talked about Jonah and how God used a storm and a big fish to get his attention. When the “Jonah” puppet was put into the fish (a black plastic bag), the kids saw how sad “Jonah” must have been to be put in “time-out” for three days in a stinky fish. The Rafiki Mothers who were present smiled to see how impressed their children were to learn that God also uses “time out” with His children.

Girls in the RGC have benefited a great deal because of the good examples of the many MiniMissionaries who have come here during the “summer”. Summer in the U.S. that is, since it has been cooler for us here. God has done a wonderful thing for us by sending a steady stream of MiniMissionaries who have taught classes, helped cut out shapes for the RCC school, inventoried

library books, filed receipts in the office, planted trees and flowers, prepared excel spreadsheets, worked during a community clinic, helped in the kitchens—basically anything they know how to do.



We thank God for the gift of service they have cheerfully given. MiniMissionaries repeatedly tell us how they have come to Africa not knowing what to expect, but leave with a deep appreciation for their newfound brothers and sisters who have real joy in their hearts in spite of the problems and poverty they face. Again, we thank God for the spirit of selfless serving the MiniMissionaries exhibit, and the way RGC girls are able to see what humble service looks like.

It's been said that the only constant is change, and that applies to us as well. Carolyn's job has changed from RCC assistant director to instructing at the RGC and helping with MiniMission activities (transportation, meals, jobs, etc.). This means she may have the joy of preparing your room when you come to volunteer as a MM. Consider yourself cordially invited! Doug has given the plant manager responsibility to George Karschney and is now handling purchasing for the Rafiki Village and coordinating maintenance and security personnel. Sarah and Rebecca have settled into their school routines. Sarah has said she has the "nicest teacher at Rosslyn." Rebecca has found new friends, since both of her best friends moved back to the U.S. at the end of May. Several students from Rosslyn Academy

came to host a "field day" for our Rafiki children. They provided lots of outdoor games, running, and exercise for the little ones, and found a chance to serve in their community.

We are continuing to pray that the road will be repaired. Carolyn's car needed a new transmission after a large stone broke a couple of pieces out of the transmission case. Bus service to our area has been discontinued, which means people have to walk up to six kilometers to get a ride to work each day.

This month, a team of ROS will travel to Western Kenya to do preliminary paperwork and medical exams on eleven children with the hope of bringing them in very soon. Finishing touches will be done on the sixth cottage, as well as interviews for a sixth mother. Please pray with us for all of the details to dovetail perfectly. Locating the mother of God's choice is one of our most fervent prayer requests. God has given His children here five wonderful, dedicated, and compassionate mothers. He also helped one of our mothers through a difficult family situation with her own mother, giving her the ability to come back to care for her new children here.

Who are the people who have influenced us most? Usually not the ones who thought they were doing something great, but often those who did not have even the slightest idea that they were influencing us. Thank you for your influence on us!

Our love to you,

*Doug: Carolyn
Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca & Sarah Koepke

PO box 25372
Nairobi Kenya 00603
EAST AFRICA

Phone: 011-254-0733-250-338 (Carolyn)
011-254-0733-250-339 (Doug)

E-Mail: koepke@swiftkenya.com

From the Home Office: *The Koepkes are at 40% of the funding needed for their current term.*

NOTE: Please visit www.rafiki-foundation.org to find information on your ROS, what *Rafiki* is doing, the centers, and the Exchange.