



# Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

## Missionary Newsletter

September 2012 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke

***"Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,  
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds" (Psalm 71:17).***



Children in new t-shirts and dresses

Dear family and friends,

"It's ok, please don't cry." Seeing a child in pain is difficult! As a parent, you want to hold them and "make everything all better." As a healthcare provider, you want to "find and treat the cause." A child with pain, our daughter Sarah, just wants to do normal teenager things like run, jump, and walk to classes.

When Doug and I came home in May, we had no idea we would spend the next three months in Texas taking care of our daughter, Sarah.

In March, Sarah developed an unusual case of deep vein thrombosis in her left leg and hip. She has been hospitalized three times for blood thinners and pain control. Her pain should be gone by now, but it is not.



Carolyn, Sarah, and Doug

Last year, Sarah had already made plans to stay in Abilene with Doug's mom to complete her senior year. She wants to be a nurse (like her mom). Monday was her first day of school at Holland Medical High School.

Doug is heading back to Rwanda on September 5 to be there before our Village director Mike Koch leaves to have his painful knees examined by his doctor in the States.

*Please pray with us for Sarah's complete healing and for Doug and Carolyn to be able to return full time to Rafiki Village Rwanda.*

We declare His marvelous deeds and thank Him for His blessings to us!

Doug, Carolyn, and Sarah have been blessed by the McReynolds family who have graciously hosted and put up with us during our longer stay in Texas this summer.

Rafiki Village Rwanda has been blessed by MiniMissionaries who have helped make our team members' loads lighter while we have been in the States. We have heard good reports that the children and staff are healthy and growing in their knowledge of the Lord. The Village has been safe and secure but has been experiencing frequent power outages.



MiniMissionary Janice walking with Gad to the dining hall

Doug's mother blessed him by allowing him to spend extra time with her, as well as help scrape, paint, and do repairs at her house.

Earlier this summer, we were blessed by friends Tim and Patty and their church in St. Louis who held a fundraising event called "Advent Conspiracy" which generated enough money to build and outfit a new cottage, which has now been built and occupied. It was wonderful to be able to visit, show them pictures, talk about the children, and thank them in person for their generosity.

### More Blessings:

- God's grace and protective hand have kept Rafiki Village Rwanda accident free and the children healthy (other than occasional bouts of boils, ringworm, and allergies).



Dr. Bob who is in Rwanda now, doing physicals on the staff and children

- MiniMissionaries have helped with many of Carolyn's tasks, assisting with sponsor reports, sponsor cards, child development assessments, and children's scrapbooks.

- The Rafiki Mothers have faithfully shepherded their flocks, lovingly correcting and protecting their children.
- Genuine joy resides in the hearts of the children and a deep love for God's Word.
- Assistant ChildCare Director Joy who is keeping the kitchen running smoothly and remembering when immunizations are scheduled.
- New clothing for the children, provided by a church in Virginia.

### Prayer Requests:

- Sarah's pain to be resolved and for complete healing.
- Doug's trip back to Rwanda on September 5 is safe and for Carolyn to be able to join him soon.
- Doctor's wisdom in diagnosis and treatment of our Village director's knees. Relief of pain and full mobility.
- The Rwandan government to understand Rafiki provides each child a loving home and family, and not view us as "just an orphanage."
- God to change every child's heart with His gift of faith.
- Full sponsorship for all Rafiki children.
- Our children to be honest even when it means they may get in trouble. Lying has been a problem lately.
- Faustin to respect authority. Please pray for his teacher and Rafiki Mother to have wisdom in this issue and that his heart will soften.
- Olivier who has had great trouble with ADHD. Please pray for us to be able to treat him soon and for him to be able to perform well in school.
- Complete funding to build a preschool.
- Complete funding for the Koepke upcoming two-year Rafiki term.
- Wisdom to manage time and resources.

Our love and thanks to all of you,

*Doug, Carolyn & Sarah*

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ROS #102

Our family has a page on Facebook.

Go to: **Koepke | Rafiki Village Rwanda** and click on pictures. There are folders for most of the Rafiki children there.