



Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

Missionary Newsletter

September 2015 – Carolyn and Doug Koepke



Walking to opening assembly

Dear friends and family,

The Heart

At the heart of the Rafiki ChildCare Program are our 109 children, nine mothers, and one couple who serve as house parents for our children, many of whom are teenagers. Those of you who have grown-up children probably remember what it was like to mother or father a teenager. A teenager has a natural ability to analyze, think through arguments, and then argue. These are/can be trying years filled with hormones, peer pressure, and rebellion. For our children, it's no different. Raising children is never an easy task, but God works through the difficulties to bring about His good will. We have been blessed to see God's hand at work here in Rafiki Village Nigeria through some of the day-to-day trials. The Rafiki Mothers rely on God's grace to deal with these issues. And we often come together as a Village to help in training these young adults. Through this process, Rafiki children learn to express themselves in a godly way, to be a Christian witness in Nigerian society. And in the end, even in the midst of all the teenage drama, God is faithful to fulfill His plan for their lives and ours.

Graduates

Lydia is one of our first graduates to finish her education at Rafiki. She excels in Math and English, and has decided to pursue a degree in English. Her ultimate goal is to become a university professor. Since her graduation at the end of 2014, she has gained experience in the classroom by helping to teach English in the Junior Secondary School. Having

been taught via the Classical Method all these years helps her greatly. Despite her young age, she is one of the students' favorite teachers, and based on the students' mastery of English; she is already becoming well versed in her chosen profession. Lydia is about to embark on the next step in her life—going off to university. She has applied at two schools, and hopes to attend Bingham University.

Besides her influence in the classroom, Lydia also plays guitar well and has led the Rafiki Children's Choir for several years. Needless to say, all of us at Rafiki will miss her presence.



Lydia

Rafiki Bible Study

In addition to other duties, Doug and Carolyn help lead the Rafiki Bible Study (RBS) for our Nigerian workers. The school teachers lead the children in the RBS every day at school and the mothers lead the children in Bible study at home. We study the Bible in a systematic way, using discussion questions and lessons learned from several Bible verses each day. Staff may be here for a short time or stay for years, but they all receive opportunity to grow in their faith through the Rafiki Bible Study, and in turn, they share the things they have learned with those in their churches and communities. We hear testimonies of how Christ has changed them since they gave their lives to Christ.

Education Program

Each weekday begins the same way for a Rafiki child. Awake at 6 A.M., do a few household chores, and get dressed for school. After breakfast in the dining hall, go home to brush teeth, and then walk to school for opening assembly.

At 7:45, more than 200 students march quietly in single file to the assembly area, adjacent to the flagpole. As they walk, other students raise the flag. Teachers inspect each of their students for cleanliness and that all uniforms are complete and properly worn. One of the older students leads everyone in the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance. Erica Robertson gives the announcements and a short devotional, followed by a student who leads in prayer and in singing the first verse of the hymn of the week. By 7:55, the students are walking in single file lines to their classrooms.

Christian classical learning provides students with the desire and the tools for lifelong learning. It emphasizes the true, the good, and the beautiful and fosters wisdom and virtue. It encourages students to develop into respectful, disciplined, and honorable men and women. While appreciating the need to prepare students to survive and even thrive in the future, this time-honored model values the wisdom of looking back. It holds that moving forward sometimes requires listening to the past, to the great conversation of ideas and ideals that have gone before us. And all is viewed through the lens of Scripture and grounded in the faith, hope, and love of Christ. Each subject is taught from a biblical worldview.

Every student who graduates from secondary school takes exams to show what they have learned throughout grades ten, eleven, and twelve. These are very difficult exams because students are tested on material from at least eight subjects from all three years. If they perform well, their grades on the exams will help them with admission to university or vocational schools, and even in getting a good job in the future.

We will be home during the month of November. If you would like us to share more about Rafiki please contact us to set up a date and time.

Our love to you,

Doug, Carolyn & Sarah

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Missionary #102

P.S. From the Home Office: The Koepkes are currently at 45% of the funding needed for their current term 8 (January 2015 – December 2016).