

RAFIKI REPORT

God's Word at Work
Summer 2021

In this Report

Hear from Executive Director Karen Elliott about the new things God is doing.

Hear from Founder and President Rosemary Jensen.

Read compelling stories about our work in Africa.

See the progress on our new Printing and Distribution Center.



SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON THESE THREE GRADUATES



FROM KAREN ELLIOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Remember not the former things, nor consider things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Dear Mission Partners,

God is doing many new things in and through Rafiki in Africa and the U.S. In this report are stories picturing an abundance of fruit that God is cultivating in the children and youth in our ten Rafiki Villages and beyond. In addition, you will see some of the **new things** that have come about since our last report. Here are just a few:

New opportunities with our church partners: The 10-million-member Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) has a strong interest in our Rafiki Education System. We conducted three seminars for them and plan to start teacher training to help them begin their own classical Christian schools. This could have a huge impact in the country.

New Sunday school lessons in use in Africa: In Uganda, 553 Sunday school sets were delivered, and half will be in use starting this month. In over 200 churches, adults to children will be studying the Gospel of Matthew weekly for nine months. Is your church looking for Sunday school materials? We have several studies available for purchase on our website.

New African church schools using our curriculum: In Kenya, 23 church schools will start their new school year in July with Rafiki's Education System. Not only does that mean that the children in those schools will receive a classical Christian education, but everyone in those schools will also receive the Rafiki Bible Study. That means we will send out 10,000 Bibles, one for every child who can read, to those schools. Imagine the fruit from 10,000 children having their own Bible and Bible study for the first time.

New school buildings: Four new schools are under construction and will soon be completed, allowing hundreds more children on long waiting lists to attend our schools.

New missionaries: Six missionaries head out this summer to Africa. Pray for more! The opportunities for us to train teachers and provide our curriculum and Bible study to schools and homeschoolers are taking off in Africa!

New Home Office building: The new 10,000 square foot Printing and Distribution Center (PAD) is 50% complete and will open in September. We have been praying for this for over three years, and now it is a reality!

New Day Student Sponsorship Program launched: With a few mouse clicks on our website, you can transform a life eternally by sponsoring a specific child from the community to attend a Rafiki School.

New outreach in America: Over the last 20 years, God has given us the ability to develop excellent classical Christian curriculum and Bible study that we have used in Africa. In response to a growing request for these materials in the U.S., we began making Rafiki School curriculum available for purchase in 2020. In 2021 we have gone a step further and created a plan (Church Classical Schools) to mobilize churches to open classical Christian schools within their existing facilities. Rafiki will provide curriculum, teacher training, and consulting. We are presently working with two churches in Lake County, Florida, to start schools. Pray that the Lord will start a movement of classical Christian schools in church facilities across the U.S.

Thank you for your prayers and support. It is a joy to partner with you in these new things for God's kingdom and glory!

Karen J Elliott, Executive Director
Rafiki Foundation



Dr. Dennis Johnson, Rafiki Board Member; Rev. Yonas Yigizu, President EECMY; Karen Elliott, Tekle Kumera, Village Administrator Ethiopia. Taken at EECMY headquarters.



Karen Elliott with new Rafiki missionaries



LETTER FROM ROSEMARY

Dear friends,

In this REPORT you will read of remarkable expansion of the work and influence of the Rafiki Foundation accomplished by the grace of God. Credit also goes to Karen Elliott, the Executive Director of Rafiki, her staff, the missionaries in all ten African countries, and the many volunteers who help out in Africa and in the United States. All has been made possible through the generosity of the expanding number of donors.

As I watch the expansion of Rafiki that God enabled me to start 36 years ago, I am quite aware that I am personally diminishing. My years, my health, my brain, my activities are all diminishing, BUT my days are still full. In this *Rafiki Report* I am reporting what God allowed me to be a part of in helping Rafiki expand in the past year.

1. **Sunday School Lessons.** We re-arranged the Rafiki Bible Study into lessons that can be used in church Sunday schools for adults and children. These are available to churches anywhere in the world now. Just contact Rafiki.
2. **The Rosemary Jensen Bible Foundation.** We sent out 10,000 commentaries on the Book of *Matthew* to be included with the Sunday school lessons free to African churches. We are now raising funds to purchase 10,000 *Acts* commentaries for Africa. African Sunday school teachers cannot afford to buy these commentaries but need them to be better teachers.
3. **A Book.** I was able to compile and edit the life stories of 14 church leaders in Africa, who have not been recognized but who have kept the faith in spite of great difficulties. The name of the book is *Humble Heroes*. You can get it from Rafiki's website (Store.RafikiFoundation.org).
4. **Church Classical Schools.** This is a work in progress. We are encouraging evangelical churches in the United States to use their facilities on week days to provide an alternative to public schools. Rafiki can provide classical Christian curriculum from pre-school through grade twelve that has been developed over the past 19 years. This curriculum, used successfully in Rafiki's schools in Africa, has been revised for American schools and is now available from Rafiki's website (RafikiEducationSystem.org).

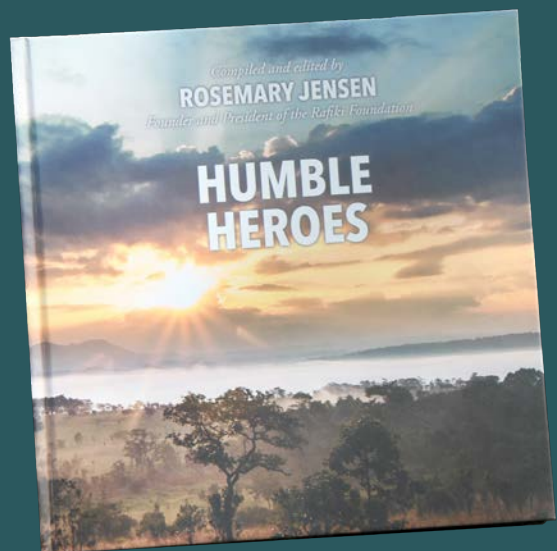
On a personal note, I moved this past year to a senior living facility where I can see my family more often and go to church. I am well and happy. Now I look forward to how God will give me the privilege of helping Rafiki expand its influence in bringing people to Christ and teaching them his Word.

Each one of us is one year nearer to the time when the Lord will take us home. As I watch my lifespan diminish, I pray for the expansion of Rafiki. Even more so I pray for the expansion of the gospel that will be preached to all the world before the Lord returns (Matthew 24:14). Pray with me.

My love to you, my Rafiki friends,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Jensen".

Rosemary Jensen, Founder and President
Rafiki Foundation



THINKING RIGHT THOUGHTS

RAFIKI BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM (RBS)

The impact of the RBS is immeasurable. A day student commented, “When I came to Rafiki [in Grade Four] I left all my friends behind. I thought that God didn’t love me because I was separated from my friends. But God was so loving and good, so much that I get the opportunity to learn His Word at school. That helps me to be strong in faith.”

After Stephen arrived at Rafiki in 2007 as an orphan, God used the daily study of the Bible using the RBS to establish a firm foundation in his heart. However, during a 2018 homestay, he fell in with a bad crowd and committed thefts at the Village. Rafiki staff counseled him, he then repented and received the LORD. However, the gang still had a hold on him that was hard to escape. Because of the gang’s threats, he persisted in theft and was arrested and imprisoned. While in prison, he experienced horrible conditions and treatment, yet God and the Rafiki staff did not forget him. They prayed and visited him. Like the prodigal son, he came to his senses. Upon his release, he returned to the Village, repented for his behavior, and volunteered to warn the other children not to follow his path! Though he strayed, the Lord held him fast, and God’s Word remained in him bringing about his repentance and recommitment. Free of the gang, he is now in college and will not let go of God’s Word.

One RBS group leader in the U.S. commented, “Oh MY! We so loved our study in Genesis this year! Just amazing! The ladies loved it so much—I’m praying about Rafiki Matthew study in the fall!”

You too may enjoy the RBS. The study is available in three versions: a group study, Sunday school lessons, and school classroom/homeschool lessons. Over 500 studies have been sent out and are being used by hundreds of groups in the U.S.



Studying God’s Word in EC 3, Rafiki Village Zambia

RAISING GODLY CONTRIBUTORS

OUR CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING COLLEGE!

The children are growing up and becoming young adults quickly, and many sponsors wonder what happens next for them. After high school graduation, resident children may apply for a Rafiki scholarship for tertiary study. This year 125 young adults are, or will soon be, enrolled in university or vocational courses through Rafiki scholarships. This takes a lot of work for our missionaries and Rafiki Mothers who follow their progress and help them adapt to their new environments just like any parent would. We are so humbled by the steadfast support of sponsors who have supported a child all the way through university—many for over 15 years. Thank you!

While these older ones go on to pursue God’s call in their lives, we still have over 600 resident children in the Villages, engaged in a multitude of enriching opportunities. Many of our children excel in their extra-curricular activities. Liberia Village’s track and field team ranked second in a national championship, while students from Tanzania earned many prizes in a tennis tournament.

Across our Villages, the children are busy learning to play musical instruments, exploring new subjects through research projects, and learning to sew. The Ghana Village had an unexpected donation of 45 live chickens, so the young men had the opportunity to learn from the residence hall father how to butcher chickens. In Uganda, the older residents started driver’s education and formed a chess club. Students from the Village in Rwanda are working together to build a chicken coop. They have even developed a business plan to sell the eggs.



New violinists Mary and Teopista, Rafiki Village Uganda

PRODUCING CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS

TEACHERS COLLEGE

The RICE (Rafiki Institute of Classical Education) Deans in all our Rafiki Villages demonstrated their resilience and resourcefulness over the past year as they dealt with the impact of COVID-19. Despite school and college shut-downs, government requirements in constant flux, and ever-changing start dates, the deans persevered to keep things moving. Our RICE Deans kept in touch with students via WhatsApp, providing weekly Bible study lessons and coursework for independent study. RICE students served as teaching assistants in the schools until RICE resumed by assisting teachers, teaching lessons, and tutoring children. By September 2021 all seven programs are expected to reopen.

We recently surveyed teachers from our 10 schools and, of our 300 teachers, over 85 of them attended RICE. We have found that they exhibit higher quality teaching skills and content knowledge than teachers from government teachers colleges.

A NEW TWIST ON RICE

This is a one-year, certificate program training licensed African educators in classical Christian education. Students take courses from the RICE curriculum for half the day and teach half a day in the Rafiki School. This program has produced excellently trained teachers in Tanzania. In fact, with the reopening of the senior secondary school, a total of 14 of the teaching staff are RICE trained teachers. Because of the success of this program and need for classically trained teachers, this program will be replicated in other Rafiki Villages, enabling us to expand our capacity in the RICE Program.



RICE graduates, Rafiki Village Nigeria

EXPANDING POPULATIONS

RAFIKI SCHOOL PROGRAM

Just like the rest of the world, schools in Africa are still recovering from classroom time lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, all our schools have at least partially reopened. Throughout the past year, missionaries and teachers did an outstanding job of providing educational materials to students at home and even went into communities where our day students live to hold lessons outside for those who could attend. Now that schools have resumed, teachers have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help students catch up by staying late or working weekends. Despite the challenges, the seniors in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Zambia took national exit exams, received above average results, and celebrated graduation events.

A Rafiki Headmaster described what you might encounter if you visited one of our schools. “You would see children in grade one learning phonics, grade three introduced to writing and rhetoric, grade eight making pyramids in history class and later in the day studying formal logic, grade ten learning about famous scientists during biology class, grade eleven reading *Much Ado About Nothing*, and grade twelve finishing their two-year course in rhetoric.”

While many of our day student families pay fees to attend our schools, they cover less than 10% of our costs to offer this wonderful education and run the Villages.

Would you consider sponsoring a day student to help us make sure that families in the communities we serve can send a child to our school? Sponsorship provides well-qualified teachers, resources, supplies, healthy meals twice a day, and education in God’s Word and his wonderful creation.



Senior Secondary graduates, Rafiki Village Malawi

STORIES C

FULFILLING HIS CALLING

On April 7, fourteen students graduated from the Rafiki School in Malawi as the first graduating class; Fiskani was one of the two Rafiki students tied for highest score on their national exams. What a change from his humble beginnings. Because his mother had died and his father was too ill to care for him, Fiskani was living in a village home where he slept on a grass mat and ate only one meal a day before his rescue and placement at the Rafiki Village. He feels called to enter the medical field and was overjoyed to begin his studies in a medical laboratory sciences program in a prominent university.



THANKING SPONSORS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The mother of a Rafiki day student recently wrote the following note of gratitude: "My son often shares with me what he learns from the Bible and sings the hymns. He is eager to teach other children in the neighborhood the things he learns about God and the hymns. Being a widow, I had no hope of educating my children, but thanks to Rafiki, my son can go to school. Thank you for supporting my family."



Attending a Rafiki School to receive a classical Christian education is a truly life-changing opportunity for our day students. Their parents notice great transformations as these children absorb God's truth, explore all subjects through a biblical worldview, and grow in wisdom and virtue. Their families are deeply grateful for the Rafiki School and the generous sponsors who make it possible. *Would you consider sponsoring a day student? It is a simple process through our website. Many students await this opportunity.*

SERVING IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Our prayer is that every child becomes a godly contributor in his or her country. We desire them to serve God by serving others. At the Rafiki Village Liberia, the resident orphans participated in service projects in the community. They tutored children in a nearby orphanage, assisted them with homework, and read books to them. They also assisted with painting projects at the local hospital and created encouraging signs for the staff and patients. Serving the Lord by serving others helps them learn more about what it means to love their neighbors.



OF IMPACT



SPREADING THE GOSPEL

After graduating from the Rafiki Village Liberia's teaching training college (RICE) last year, Matthew (left) was hired by Rafiki and works as an intervention teacher in the school. Peter (right) is in his second year at the teaching training college, and he too worked at the Rafiki school.

Both of these men actively serve in a young church plant near the Village. They read Scripture, usher, and pray.

Recently, while the pastor was away, Peter served the church by preaching God's Word to the congregation.



FROM BREAKING STONES TO PROVIDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES

Rafiki partners with South Sudanese refugee women in Uganda. They and their children fled to safety and opportunity in Uganda, but the only work available was the backbreaking labor and meager pay of crushing rocks at a quarry. Other options, such as paper bead making, proved

fruitless as the women encountered exploitation from unethical buyers.

Years later, the refugee women met Margaret, a biblical counselor who started a Bible study for women. As the refugees became involved in the study, they showed Margaret their paper bead products, and together they prayed for an opportunity to make a reliable income selling their crafts. Margaret met one of our Rafiki missionaries and introduced her to these women. The missionary was immediately impressed by their excellent artisan crafts. Now that they sell their products to Rafiki, these women no longer have to work as stonebreakers. They can afford to eat more than one meal a day, send their children to school, and they explore God's Word through the Rafiki Bible Study.



STRIVING TO BE AN EXCELLENT TEACHER

George, another graduate of our teacher training program in Liberia, was hired to help start a new school. Other than the Rafiki School, George's school is the first in Liberia to purchase and use the Rafiki curriculum. What a joy to see George teaching his eager students. He is enthusiastic and engaging and strives to be an excellent teacher. We are thrilled to know that George is using the Rafiki school

curriculum and teaching the Word of God through the Rafiki Bible Study.

FILLING A CONTAINER WITH BASKETS

WIDOWS PROGRAM

Rwandan women have been passing the skill of basket weaving from generation to generation for centuries. Our widows groups—most located in rural areas—weave beautiful baskets and bowls made of sisal and sweet grass. These have always been one of our best selling products. So this past year we decided to buy a **WHOLE 20-FOOT CONTAINER** of baskets! The women were overjoyed when they received such a big order while most people in their country were out of work. This is a significant blessing to them, and these baskets are in high demand. Help widows in Africa by purchasing these handcrafted pieces of art. (Store.RafikiFoundation.org/GenocideSurvivors)

A new widows group in Uganda, started by a former designer from New York, provides women with a sustainable work environment, and joy and growth in Christ. They create their products through beading and crocheting. Some of their most popular products are the precious crocheted Safari Friend stuffed animals. We're sure you'll want one! (Store.RafikiFoundation.org/Kirabo-Gifts)

A widow in Kenya shared with our missionary that she was able to purchase her home from her landlord because of the money she earned from selling products to Rafiki. Your purchases make a difference.

Our online sales almost tripled last year—we'd love to quadruple this year. Thank you for shopping and supporting hundreds of widows and poor women of the church, enabling them to receive the dignity of work and the doctrines of grace.



Member of the Kirabo Gifts with her Safari Friends

SHIPPING GLOBALLY

A PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER (PAD)

There was a great sense of satisfaction at Rafiki when we finally began clearing land the first week of March 2021. This event had been more than a year in the making and was definitely a spectator favorite for the Rafiki Home Office staff. When the heavy equipment moved in, it was amazing to see how quickly the land changed. Within the space of three days, the dense brush-filled land was turned into an acre of brilliant, white sand.

The stunning speed of land clearing was replaced with the tortoise-like pace of the underground work. Sand was compacted; water, sewer, and electrical conduits were placed; and nearly a mile of steel rebar was positioned. Water supply pipes and fiber optic and ethernet conduits were laid to ensure fire safety and connectivity.

Then came the “Big Pour,” as it became known in Rafiki lore, which began shortly after midnight on April 12. It continued for more than ten hours and left behind 330 yards of new concrete slab weighing in at more than 1,336,000 pounds.

The weeks following the “Big Pour” were filled with numerous important details. A driveway, truck ramp, and sidewalks were created; water connections were made; and an electrical transformer was installed to power the new Printing and Distribution Center. A mighty new water well was commissioned to provide fire safety for the site.

The time had come for the building itself to make its grand entrance; so, on May 27, it arrived amidst great pomp and circumstance. This facility will increase our capacity fourfold, allowing us to ship up to 40 to 50 containers to Africa every year.

Pray with us that it is finished by September.



Printing and Distribution Center (PAD)

Six of our schools are expanding their populations quickly by housing additional classes of preschool and primary students in repurposed existing buildings. In Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, new primary school buildings and a high school are under construction to increase the schools' capacities to serve the community by offering highly-subsidized, excellent, classical Christian education.



New primary school building, Rafiki Village Tanzania



New primary school building, Rafiki Village Ethiopia



New high school building, Rafiki Village Ethiopia



New primary school building, Rafiki Village Rwanda

CULTIVATING VIRTUE AND WISDOM GLOBALLY

OUTREACH PROGRAM IN AFRICA. . .

Partner church schools, private Christian schools, and homeschool parents in Africa are embracing classical Christian education.

As one church leader said, “classical Christian education is the solution for the world; *it is the solution for fighting corruption in Africa!*”

IMAGINE 26 new schools in Africa committed to using Rafiki’s curriculum! That is 73 classrooms engaged in Bible study and a curriculum built upon a biblical worldview that inspires students to love learning and all that is true, good, and beautiful!

IMAGINE all the children in those schools taking the Home Devotion Pages to their families to share what they have learned in the Bible. Just think of the possibilities for spreading the Word of God and raising a generation that knows and loves God!

. . .AND IN THE UNITED STATES

Many factors have contributed to the dramatic shift in the landscape of education in the U.S. this past year. Churches and families are concerned about the education their children receive and are seeking other options. The Rafiki curriculum has been tried and tested for 20 years in our Rafiki Schools in Africa, and now we are customizing the curriculum to make it available for use in the States. We are excited to be working with two churches that will be starting schools with our curriculum and Bible study. Pray for more!



Residents unloading school curriculum, Rafiki Village Kenya

RAFIKI 2020 STATISTICS

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY THINGS FOR WHICH WE ARE THANKFUL!

- Began construction on three schools in 2020.
- Shipped the Rafiki Sunday school material for 553 churches in Uganda, 50 in Kenya, and curriculum for 26 schools and 39 homeschoolers in Africa.
- Commissioned seven new missionaries.
- Added a new group to the Widows Program and sales nearly tripled online.
- Shipped a container full of baskets from Rwanda—first time we have ever done that!
- Witnessed significant breakthroughs in two countries: Rwanda has declared English as the mode of instruction in schools nationwide, and our church partner in Ethiopia is eagerly pursuing changes in government policy to allow the church schools to teach the Bible and implement Christian education.
- Graduated 42 children from high school, eight university students, and 24 RICE students.
- Registered Tanzania's secondary school after three years of perseverance.
- Shipped thousands of Bibles and books for pastors and seminary students.
- Over 3300 people studying the Bible daily at Rafiki Villages and receiving the gospel.



Missionaries in Kenya meeting with a widows group in the Kibera slums



Opening assembly of secondary students, Rafiki Village Tanzania

READING LIST

Humble Heroes by Rosemary Jensen

Praying the Attributes of God by Rosemary Jensen

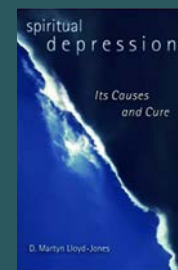
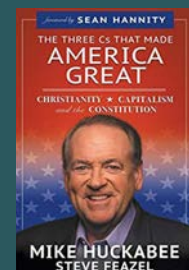
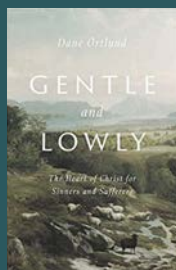
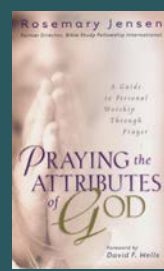
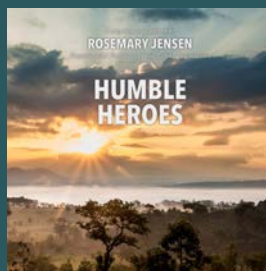
The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution by Carl R. Trueman

Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund

When the Stars Disappear: Help and Hope from Stories of Suffering in Scripture by Mark Talbot

The Three Cs That Made America Great: Christianity, Capitalism and the Constitution by Mike Huckabee

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones



TRANSFORM LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME

WHEN YOU GIVE, YOU SECURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS IN AFRICA

Rafiki is now able to accommodate planned or unique giving such as real estate or other non-cash items. This is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for God's Word at Work while accommodating your own personal, financial, estate-planning and philanthropic goals. With wise planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Just as important, you will know that you have made a meaningful contribution to Rafiki.

Gifts can include:

- Gifts that reduce your taxes, such as stock, real estate, and other non-cash gifts
- Gifts that pay you income
- Gifts in your will

Rafiki collaborates with the Barnabas Foundation to offer our supporters complimentary planning services and assistance with non-cash gifts.

To learn more about ways you can increase the impact of your generosity, call at 352-483-9131 or email Rafiki@RafikiFoundation.org

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Give where most needed. This allows us the flexibility to respond to opportunities as they arise.

Sponsor a child from the community to a Rafiki School. The cost to support a child for a year is \$1000 and provides a daily study in the Bible, two meals a day, and a world-class education from a biblical worldview.

Supply curriculum to a classroom of a partner school in Africa. For \$500 you can supply all the teacher texts and student materials plus cover printing, development, and shipping costs for a classroom of 20 children in a partner school.

Complete the Printing and Distribution Center. God has provided almost all of the construction funds, but additional resources are needed to outfit the facility.

JOIN US IN PRAYING

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THESE 2021 GOALS:

- Develop 100 more prayer groups.
- Open the Printing and Distribution Center September 2021.
- See 2000 groups using the RBS worldwide.
- Grow the Widows Program by adding countries and groups and increase sales by 60%.
- Start the RICE Program in Rwanda, Ghana, and Ethiopia.
- Send at least 20 new full-time missionaries.
- Add 2000 new donors.
- Expand outreach to churches, schools, and homeschoolers in Africa and the U.S. with our Bible study and curriculum.
- Print and ship curriculum and Bible study for 100 schools in Africa.
- Print and ship RBS Sunday school lessons for 9500 churches in Africa.
- Fill to capacity and accredit all seven RICE Programs.
- See that all orphans and day students are fully funded.

GROWING UP

FROM THE FRONT COVER

The three young men on the front cover—Kofi, Martey, and Ato—each came to Rafiki as toddlers. They recently graduated from Senior Secondary School in Ghana. The following pictures were taken shortly after the boys were brought to Rafiki. What fun it has been to watch them grow up!





NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MID-FL, FL
PERMIT NO. 26012

The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1988
Eustis FL 32727-1988

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Word at Work
www.RafikiFoundation.org

RAFIKI BY THE NUMBERS

