

Making

Christian Teachers

for Africa

“Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).

Paul’s prayer for the Colossians is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago, and the Lord has certainly answered this prayer for Rafiki in 2013. We have grown to 843 children (ages two to twenty-two) who are thriving and now call Rafiki home. Over 300 of them are teenagers and they are excelling in school (passing national exams with distinction); sports (a table tennis champ and the best cadet group in the region); music (a sinfonia of violins, oboes, trumpets), and a choir which ably performed the Hallelujah chorus from Handel’s *Messiah*. Seven of these children graduated in January 2014 from the Rafiki Ghana high school (they have been with us for twelve years) and are ready to move to the next phase in their lives.



The Ghana seven who recently graduated from high school

In addition, Rafiki has provided free or discounted education to another 550 students from the surrounding communities. A total of 120 students sat for some form of national exam and Rafiki’s pass rate far exceeded the national average.

In the Widows Program, more than 2,500 poor women have been helped economically and spiritually. These women not only are able to put more food on the table and send their children to school; but they have also become quite enterprising. One group of widows in Rwanda pooled their money, built some rooms, and now rent them to



Woman in Tanzania sewing for the Widows Program

seminary students! We now sell over 275 different products from eight countries. Three new outlets were developed this past year and the Mt. Dora, Florida Christmas store has sold more than ever!

In order to bear fruit in every good work, we need buildings and people. God has provided abundantly. Eleven new buildings were finished or are in process; 202 short-term missionaries served in our Villages; and eleven new full-time missionaries were trained in January.

Increasing in the knowledge of God. Our Rafiki PreK-12 Christian classical school curriculum has been written to the eighth grade with ninth grade substantially underway. The Rafiki Bible Study is almost complete and over 180,000 African school children now have access to God’s Word in the RBS.

God is bearing fruit in our Rafiki children and students and they are increasing in the knowledge of Him. Yeabsira in Ethiopia talks about how he knows Jesus and wants to teach others about Him when he gets older. Beniyam spends a lot of time in prayer and often prays for his sponsors and those he sees who are sick.



Yeabsira

God has provided these resources—buildings, students, curriculum, and Bible studies—to be shared with our African friends. One proven, successful means of sharing resources and modeling strong learning skills is teacher training. This meets a strategic need in our ten countries in Africa where 624,700 new certified teachers are needed by next year! Good teachers are essential for good schools. How might God use Rafiki in this challenge? Read on.

"When schools flourish, all flourishes." — Martin Luther

— Martin Luther



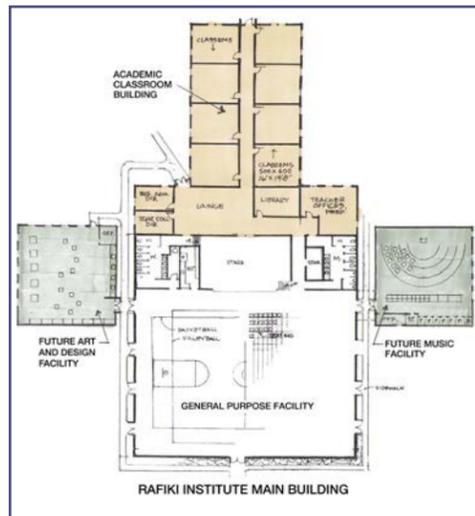
ALI building construction, Rafiki Village Uganda

Advanced Learning Institute (ALI)

The final step in Rafiki's education program is the Advanced Learning Institute in which Rafiki will conduct its teacher training program. Institute buildings are already being constructed at several Villages. These will provide space for upper-level educational opportunities for Rafiki graduates as well as many adult day students.



RICE student at Rafiki Village Uganda



Architectural drawings for ALI buildings

Included in the ALI program will be the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE) which is a computer based, self-paced teacher training program consisting of five parts.

RICE 1: One semester of training to teach preschool

RICE 2: Two semesters of training to teach kindergarten

RICE 3: Three semesters of training to teach from preschool to grade 3

RICE 4: Four semesters of training to teach preschool through grade 6.

RICE 5: Students who successfully complete the entire five-level program will be qualified to teach at all levels.

Ideally some graduates will open their own private Christian classical schools.

In addition to teacher training and a computer course, students participate in a daily one-hour Bible class. In fact, our RICE students are falling in love



Loice teaching Bible to her young students

with God's Word. At Rafiki Village Rwanda, one of our missionaries reported, "I asked a student to pray for the class at the beginning and end of the day, and Beatrice volunteered. Her prayer was very moving. She thanked God for the school (RICE) and she said, 'We knew that we were supposed to tell others about you, God, but we didn't know what to tell them. Now we are learning what to share. Thank you, God, for the Bible teaching.'"



RICE students at Rafiki Village Rwanda

Is Rafiki's Education Program Making a Difference?

In October 2013, RICE began in four countries and has already expanded to seven of the ten Rafiki countries. Loice, in Kenya, had attended a Partner Headmaster Training earlier that year. Intrigued by what she had learned and wanting more training, she was thrilled to be accepted into RICE. So eager was she to attend RICE that she spent two and one half hours daily on public transportation. Loice has now opened her own school. Her thirty-two students and three teachers benefit from the Rafiki Bible Study as Loice models good teaching skills while instructing her students. RICE training has equipped Loice to convert her school to a Christian classical preschool and kindergarten. Her goal is to develop a complete



RICE students at Rafiki Village Malawi



RICE dean helping a student

primary school that will one day be used to train others.

A recent graduate of RICE 1 was hired by our partner church to start a new preschool. In fact, they hired her because she had been trained by Rafiki. They wanted to open a preschool in the Anglican cathedral in their diocese and do it the "Rafiki way".

What Do RICE Students Think About the Program:

Anne: "I am so pleased with the schedule at RICE; it gives us enough time to understand what we are learning. The exams are quite simple but more challenging. It makes someone to think more and gain more knowledge. Bible reading session has been the best session because every time we learn on how God impact in our lives."

Victoria: "I have learnt many things like using a laptop which I have never used, reading Bible, and I have improved my English. I also love the environment. I know that I will come out of here with more knowledge, and I thank the RICE founders very much."

May this report of what God is doing in Africa encourage you as you partner with Rafiki in Bible Study, Childcare, Education, Widows, and the Advanced Learning Institute. Join us in thanking Him for the privilege of being a part of this work. To learn more on how to be involved, visit our website.