



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful"
(Joshua 1:7-8 NIV).

Happy New Year

This is the proper Kenyan greeting to anyone you haven't seen since the New Year started; even if it is March! We have begun studying the Book of Joshua and have been encouraged by what God tells Joshua about being strong and courageous. Over the past couple of months we have seen evidence of God strengthening us at Rafiki Village Kenya.

Wildlife

What is that sound we hear? Doug went out looking for hyrax that eats in our garden at night when he heard a ROAR! Since it was about one a.m. and no one knew he was sitting in the garden, he had second thoughts. It was time to come back into the light! The guards had been hearing this same leopard at night in our compound, and had begun walking together. That is one way to keep the guards awake and alert during the wee hours of the night! After two weeks, we stopped hearing the leopard, but the Rafiki Mothers have used this to their advantage. At seven p.m. when it gets dark, some of the children had been slow in going home since they want to continue playing outside. Not anymore!



COURAGEOUS RAFIKI MOTHER RUTH

Several of our staff saw a spitting cobra this month, so all of the children were cautioned to stay out of the tall grass and bushes. But within just three or four days, Rafiki Mother Ruth saw the snake behind her house. It was no match for Rafiki Mother Ruth! She picked up a stick and went over and beat the daylight out of it. Thank you for being strong and courageous, Rafiki Mother Ruth!

Medical

Doug gave Carolyn an opportunity to practice her stitching skills. He managed to get a deep cut in his eyebrow, and Carolyn asked if he wanted pretty stitches or free stitches. That was an easy decision for Doug, and fortunately for him Carolyn knew where to find the Lidocaine and suture kits. Doug has promised to be a bit more careful (although we're not too sure that's possible).



In January, Kimanthi had a seizure that scared everyone. After giving him medication, Carolyn and Doug rushed him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with an ear and throat infection and then brought back home to Rafiki. *Please pray for his recovery.*

Children

We recently had a movie night. The children watched the movie "Wall-E". They giggled with glee as they watched the dining room wall being transformed into a theater.

Several of our children will have the opportunity to take swimming lessons at a local pool. Five girls are starting first on the "Red Team."



ROSE AND KASYOKA ON A CAMEL

Our older children had the chance to ride a camel a couple of weeks ago. What a fun time they had. They laughed as they rode the camel.

Staff:

God provided us a mother to train. Pray for two more ladies to commit themselves to the full-time ministry of mothering the children. One of our cottages has been empty for more than a year.

Praises

- Rose got glasses for far-sightedness and has no more headaches.
- Lucia has lazy eyes. We are patching her eyes alternately for three hours every day except Sunday. She is improving.
- More of the children have been joyful as they help with chores in the kitchen and cottages.
- Our children have received new church outfits and uniforms, sewn courtesy of a generous donor.
- Dr. Elaine Tan will come in March to examine the children.
- We had a fun-filled return trip to New Life Home with some of our children to help celebrate the baby home's fifteenth anniversary.

Pray for:

- An encouraging visit in March by the Home Office Team.
- Carolyn has the opportunity to go to a week-long nursing conference starting March eighth. Pray for her as she has been asked to present a session on orphan grief. Pray for clarity and passion as she speaks.
- Amos struggles to remember consistently. He is behind classmates in his schoolwork and thinking abilities. Pray for his concentration and retention to improve.
- Pray for Elijah to continue to improve in his listening and communication skills. Dutch Bylsma continues to work with Elijah two hours each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but Elijah still struggles to understand and follow verbal instructions.
- More couples/singles will be identified from our partner churches to be "aunties and uncles" – adult mentors for our children.
- One of our mothers who struggles with high blood pressure and diabetes to maintain good control over her diet and exercise.
- A local hospital to be found that we can take our children to, if they need to be hospitalized.
- Our children to mature physically and wake up and go to the bathroom instead of wetting their beds.
- The children to improve in their comprehension and articulation of both English and Kiswahili.
- MiniMissionaries to be trained and come to serve with us.
- God to continue to enable child sponsors to give towards the support of every child.
- Each child to receive Jesus as his/her personal Savior and dedicate their lives to live for Him.
- The health and safety of our ROS, MiniMissionaries, and national workers.

Love,

*Doug, Carolyn
Rebecca, Sarah*

Carolyn, Doug, Rebecca, and Sarah Koepke

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If you would like to receive periodic updates by e-mail, please contact Georgi Duwe who is filling in as prayer captain for us. georgi@georgiduwe.com