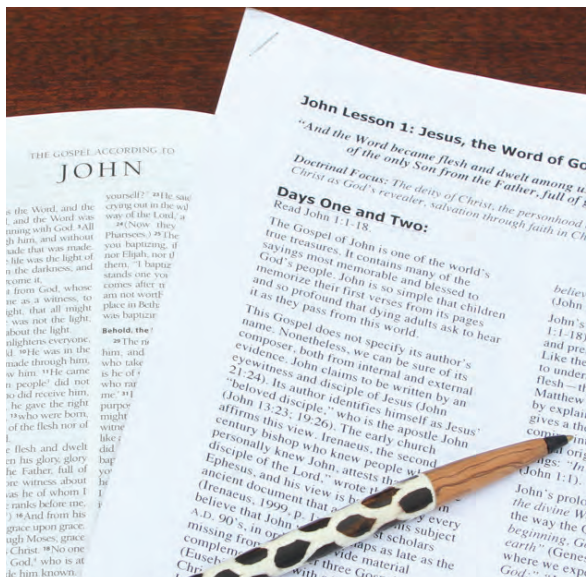


# RAFIKI REPORT

Summer 2020

## God's Word at Work through Rafiki





---

# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

It is breathtaking to consider all God has done in 35 years. Imagine what the next 35 years could look like! *We believe God is calling Rafiki to cultivate a multitude of godly contributors worldwide in the next generation!*



We pray regularly that at least 1000 schools in Africa will adopt our Rafiki Education System™. Should God allow this, we could see a million or more children transformed by God's Word and the Great Conversation. Equipping church schools with Rafiki's Bible Study, classical Christian curriculum, and teacher training is a strategic mission that God has given us because next to the family and the church, a Christian school is a highly effective evangelistic and discipleship environment.

God has given Rafiki great material to share with others. But as you will see in this report, a work like this does not get done without people. Of course, God does not need us—but He allows us to participate in what He is doing.

This report traces the life of Rosemary Jensen, whom God has and is using in many ways, especially in the founding and development of Rafiki. Rosemary would tell you that she did not receive some grand vision or see writing on the wall; she simply did the *next right thing* and, in obedience to the Lord, has brought about this movement. God has also raised up each of you to partner in the work through a variety of ways: in prayer groups, as donors, and as short- and long-term missionaries. We also have faithful African staff and church leaders partnering with us. I thank God for each of you!

In each country, we are expanding schools and establishing teacher training and are ripe for exponential growth. We are ready for more people—the next generation of Christians to serve in Africa—to bring the gospel and exceptional education to the next generation.

*What is the next right thing God has for you?*

The time is now for more intrepid followers of Christ to join this movement. When we look back 35 years from now, we very well may see whole nations transformed.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen J. Elliott".

Karen J. Elliott  
Executive Director

---

# BY GOD'S GRACE

---

## RAFIKI HAS MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

- Ten Training Villages across Africa and a Home Office in the USA.
- Hundreds of Africans working together with Rafiki missionaries.
- Partnerships with twenty-three African denominations.
- The Rafiki Bible Study with studies for all books of the Bible written and available for all age levels.
- Ten classical Christian schools with thousands of students.
- Classical Christian curriculum printed and available in Rafiki Villages and African partner denomination church schools.
- Eight Teacher Training Colleges (RICE) with hundreds of students enrolled.
- Thousands of widows supported through their handcrafts.
- Thousands of friends—“RAFIKI”s—worldwide.



---

# HISTORY OF THE RAFIKI FOUNDATION

---

“I realize now in looking back that God uses every experience in our lives to prepare us to do special work for Him.”

—Rosemary Jensen

Rafiki started in history when I was seventeen years old and dedicated my life to foreign missions after listening to a missionary's experience at a youth missions rally. I learned that God speaks to us through His Word, but He often leads us through others as well. After I finished college and taught high school English for a time, I went into the army to study occupational therapy. There I met my husband, Robert Travis Jensen, who was a doctor also in the army. Since he outranked me, he ordered me to marry him—and I obeyed! God wanted us on the mission field, so we listened to His call and left for Africa. We sailed out of New York Harbor for Tanzania, Africa expecting to live the rest of our lives there.

Sailing past the Statue of Liberty with our two-year-old daughter Annie was frightening, but I knew enough about God to know that you cannot please Him without having faith. While my husband's goal was to practice medicine as a Christian doctor in Africa, my goals were to teach Africans to know God and help them raise their standard of living. These goals were achieved by teaching the Bible, school lessons, and crafts to Tanzanians. Bob and I lived in Tanzania for nine years. During that time, I gave birth to two more daughters, Kathy and Tova, taught English to medical assistants, taught in an international school, and helped my husband found a 450-bed hospital on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

**1946**

God gives Rafiki's Founder Rosemary Jensen a desire to be a missionary.

**1980**

Rosemary is named General Director of Bible Study Fellowship.

**1957**

Rosemary, her husband Robert, and her young daughter leave the United States to serve in Tanzania.

**1985**

Rosemary and Robert Jensen, Richard Walenta, and Don McEachern form the Rafiki Foundation. The first Rafiki missionaries go to Africa.





## 1992

The First Lady of Uganda asks Rosemary to help with the 1.5 million orphans in Uganda.

## 2002

The first Rafiki School opens at the Rafiki Village Ghana.

As important as our work in Tanzania was, God had bigger plans for me that I could not foresee. I realize now in looking back that God uses every experience in our lives to prepare us to do special work for Him. I had gained experience in Africa that I could use to help more people know God. When we returned to the United States, I began to teach Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) and learned how to teach the Bible to others. I was the General Director of BSF for twenty years, during which time my husband and I, along with my brother, Don McEachern and Richard Walenta, began the Rafiki Foundation in 1985. Rafiki sent out its first missionaries in 1985 to serve at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Tanzania. Rafiki later sent out college professors, craft teachers, and other professionals to serve in various roles to help Africans know God and raise their standard of living. The Rafiki Widows Program started in 1988 when we sent two missionary couples to Tanzania to help the women make ceramic jewelry that they could sell for a living. Of course, each and every missionary



## 2002-2003

The Mayor of Mzuzu, Malawi asks Rosemary to start an orphanage in Malawi, and the Village concept is born.

## 2007

Rafiki begins to write the Rafiki Bible Study. The Rafiki Home Office is built in Eustis, Florida.

we sent taught the Bible. In 1992, the First Lady of Uganda, Janet Museveni, a strong Christian with a heart for her people, asked me if Rafiki could help her with the 1.5 million orphans in Uganda. I promised Mrs. Museveni that we would pray, but I couldn't see how we could help because we did not have the funds to help orphans at the time. Rafiki longed to help the suffering orphans in Uganda. Because God answers the prayers of His children, He gave us the funds to start orphanages. When people in the United States heard that we were planning to build an orphanage in Uganda, they began to donate funds for us to build more than one. Building orphanages was a huge undertaking, and I was afraid to do it—but I was more afraid not to build them if it was God's will for me. We prayerfully began to build orphanages in 2000. Rafiki missionaries were being sent to Africa to teach the Word of God in hospitals, in universities, in the Widows Program, and in orphanages.





## 2011

The Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE) Program begins.

## 2010

Rafiki begins to write, print, and ship the school curriculum.

## 2017

Rosemary forms the Rosemary Jensen Bible Foundation, sending study Bibles to Africa.

“God knows what He is doing, even when we do not.” —Rosemary Jensen

We soon started primary schools for our orphans because we knew that the best way to help people raise their standard of living is to educate them. At the time, we could not fathom that we would create our own school curriculum! Rafiki now offers our PreK–12 classical Christian curriculum to our African partners. More significant changes were ahead for the foundation: the Rafiki Home Office moved from San Antonio, Texas to Eustis, Florida in 2007. We were blessed to build facilities to print and ship school curriculum and the Rafiki Bible Study, and to build a Rafiki Exchange store to sell widows products. In 2011, we began training African teachers to educate the next generation from a biblical perspective, creating the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE) Program. Graduates from the program are equipped





**2019**

Rafiki makes its Bible Study available for worldwide purchase.

**Nov. 2019**

Rafiki holds a classical Christian education conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

**June 2019**

Rafiki celebrates Rosemary's 90th birthday.

to teach in our African partner denominations' schools across Africa. Our work continues to grow at the Rafiki Foundation. We now educate thousands of day students in our ten countries, the Rafiki Bible Study is available for purchase worldwide, and several of our first orphan children have now graduated from college. In 2017, I began the Rosemary Jensen Bible Foundation. With the help of Rafiki's shipments, we have sent over 60,000 study Bibles to African seminary students and pastors in Africa. In 2019, Rafiki held the first classical Christian education conference on the African continent, invigorating our teachers, administrators, and church partners with the classical Christian education model. The Lord will provide for what He wants to be done, and we look forward to the next thirty-five years of service in Africa.



NAL

---

# CULTIVATING A MULTITUDE OF GODLY CONTRIBUTORS

---

According to UNICEF, more than half of the anticipated growth in global population between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa.

With ten Villages across Africa, PreK–12 schools at each of those Villages, a full-orbed classical Christian education curriculum (Rafiki Education System™) which includes the Rafiki Bible Study, teachers colleges, and connections with 23 African church denominations, and thousands of church schools, Rafiki has laid a foundation to train thousands of African youth—both now and in the future.

Throughout our history and looking ahead, Rafiki's mission remains the same: to help individuals know God and raise their standard of living.

Now, the Rafiki Bible Study and Rafiki School Curriculum are available for purchase in the United States, connecting American schools to and helping execute on Rafiki's mission in Africa.

Consider the impact a future generation of godly contributors will have on the continent of Africa and the world at large.





---

## FUELED BY PRAYER

---

Join us in praying for these items in 2020:

- 20 more long-term missionaries for 2020 and to retain existing missionaries.
- 1000 Rafiki Bible Study groups by December 2020.
- All orphans and day students to be fully funded and a day student sponsorship program to be implemented.
- The Rafiki Education System™ to be distributed to 20 African partner denomination church schools.
- All eight RICE Programs to be filled to capacity.
- Construction of a Senior Secondary School in Tanzania and Ethiopia to be completed.
- The construction of the Production and Distribution Center at the Home Office to be completed.
- The Widows Program to be operational in all ten countries with 2000 widows being helped.
- 2000 new donors.
- Funds to build two Primary Schools in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

---

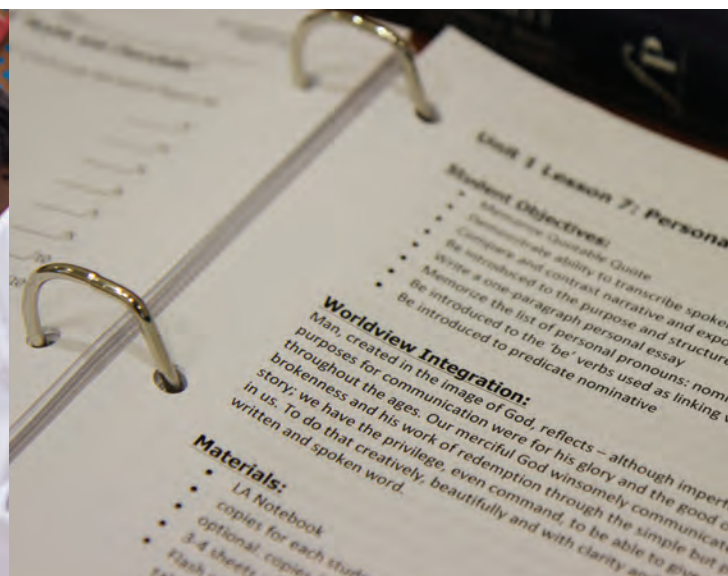
## FRUIT DURING THE PANDEMIC

---

During this pandemic, we have received wonderful reports from all ten Villages demonstrating our commitment to seeing God's Word and great education be distributed—despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

As you will see, the virus may have shut down countries, but it cannot stop the gospel and God's Word from going far and wide!

- The RBS Home Devotion Pages are being distributed via Whatsapp to many in our communities.
- Electronic and hard copy educational materials are being distributed to students.
- Widows and Rafiki mothers are making masks for the Village or for the local community. This helps in two ways—the widows earn income and our communities receive much-needed PPE.
- Rafiki children are cooking, cleaning, farming, and making repairs around our Villages.
- A multitude of facilities projects have been completed.
- Classes are being held for resident children who have stayed in our Villages.
- Senior students are receiving preparation for national exams.
- Food is being distributed to the needy families of our day students and homestay children.
- New construction is starting on a Senior Secondary School in Ethiopia.
- Children on homestay are sharing God's Word with their host families.





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

[www.RafikiFoundation.org](http://www.RafikiFoundation.org)

# RAFIKI BY THE NUMBERS



**35** YEARS OF  
SERVICE  
IN AFRICA

**61** STUDENTS  
IN TERTIARY  
EDUCATION



**778**

ONLINE  
WIDOWS  
PRODUCT  
ORDERS

**2,556**  
STUDENTS  
IN RAFIKI  
SCHOOLS



**130,000 lbs**

OF SUPPLIES SHIPPED TO  
AFRICA IN TEN CONTAINERS



**3.5 million**  
PAGES OF RICE AND  
SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
PRINTED AND SHIPPED

**60,000**  
STUDY  
BIBLES  
SHIPPED



**251**

STUDENTS  
IN TEACHER  
TRAINING (RICE)

