



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain” (Psalm 127:1 NIV).



OPENING SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Hi to all. Thank you for your prayers and gifts as this Village continues to grow and expand in so many ways. God has built this Village and He continues to watch over and protect it. We are able to observe Him in all that takes place and know with confidence that because this is His, our work is not futile.

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.



TEN CHILDREN FROM KIKUYU

In November, our Village inherited ten new resident children to give us a grand total of ninety. Our eighty children absorbed them into their families very quickly and were so excited to have new children included with them. One little boy, Michael,

who is three, was being passed around like a baby doll among the children. Everyone wanted to be around and love on Michael, including our eleven



MICHAEL

and twelve-year-old boys. I was walking around the cottages the day following the ten's arrival and saw a crowd of children. Thinking maybe they were all looking at a rare animal, I walked up to find they were all swarming around Michael and watching his every move.

Now, we are able to show ninety of God's gifts to this Village.

We are constructing our tenth cottage, which is close to being complete and ready. The cottage has already been named Zion. It stands empty now but very soon, a new family will be able to come together and grow.



NEW COTTAGE

Since the new school year started in January, the Village school now has a total of 181 students. We are continuing to develop our primary (elementary) and junior secondary (middle school) schools. Ninety-one day-students who live in the surrounding communities are now attending our Rafiki Kenya schools along with our ninety resident students. I enjoy observing the interaction between the two groups as new friendships are made.

This new school year, I added teaching Class Four (fourth grade) and Kindergarten, the art of reading and writing to my list of credentials. The classes and I have adjusted to each other with our styles/personalities/class dynamics, and we are able to move now at a faster pace. We are having a good time as we learn vocabulary, writing skills, reading skills, cursive writing, grammar, and finding God in all of those things. Woo-hoo for diagramming sentences!

I also have three brand new day-students in Class Four, whom I have enjoyed getting to know. After they have adjusted to my American accent (who knew I had an accent?), they are showing great strides of improvement in their work. I can simply say, "Good work!" and they will just beam.

Now, we are able to show 181 of God's gifts to this Village's schools.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

The city of Nairobi was experiencing a drought through November, but God brought the rain and gave relief. A lightning storm with heavy, heavy rain was given to us Friday night after we had prayed for rain as the foliage was beginning to look thirsty. But our wall couldn't bear up against high standing water from the storm and crumbled, leaving a gap visible from Kasarani Road, almost like an invitation to come see what was inside our Village from the busy street.

A mason was not available until Monday and the wall was not complete until Wednesday. However, we had no problems with security or anyone trying to slip in through the breach.

It was only after the wall was restored to full height that some thieves slipped over and attempted to loot while our families were at church on Sunday. A passerby "happened" to be walking past just as two men were passing paint cans (for the new cottage) over the side of our wall. The passerby felt he had to alert our security guards at the front gate. One guard ran around and caught one of the two thieves. Our guard was able to hail a police vehicle as the police 'happened' to be driving down the road right then and took the man to jail. The other thief is known and there is a warrant for him.

Coincidence? I'll let you decide.

I have only shared a few examples of how God takes care of us and guides us to build His Kingdom here in Kenya. This Village is His and He will continue to build and protect it.

Until next time,

Julie

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Thanksgivings

- Safety and protection of the Village
- Ten new resident children
- The ninety-one community students attending our schools
- Teaching reading to Class Four and Kindergarten

Prayer Requests

- Continued safety and protection
- God's grace and love as I teach
- God-given discernment, wisdom, joy, and guidance in my work
- Encouragement, truth, and strength to teach resident and day-students about God and His Word
- Rain as Kenya struggles with its water supply
- God-given discernment, wisdom, and guidance as Rafiki Village Kenya works with the Kenyan government to establish guardianship of the ten new children, VAT exemptions, school accreditation and all other legal documentation