



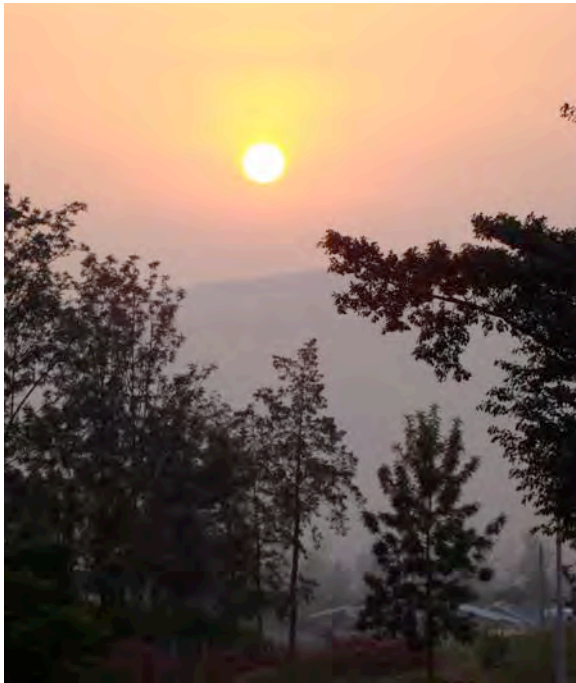
The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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January 2008

“From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised” (Psalm 113:3 NIV).

We got up early the day we left Maine destined for Africa. Our flight was delayed departing Washington, D.C., which made us late arriving in Belgium. We missed the connection and the next flight to Kigali, Rwanda, from Brussels was two days later. We are confident none of this surprised the Lord as we realized later. He made every provision for us, as well as our teammates, long before any of us knew our need. When our ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) teammates, Patty and Tim Yoss and Cricket Meyer, met us at the airport it was a glorious time of celebration with hugs, smiles, and tears of joy.



What a glorious day indeed as we woke to this beautiful sunrise the morning after our arrival in Rwanda. The singing birds, God's alarm clock, remind us of the past years, of summer seasons, in Maine and Alaska. Though we are here in Africa God has blessed us with degrees of familiarity as only He can do.



This is the gate into Rafiki Village Rwanda with our ROS teammates (from left to right) Tim and Patty Yoss; Cricket Meyer; and Bev and Ken Merrill. We eagerly make this our home and purpose to work hard preparing, praying, and planning for the days little orphans will also call Rafiki home.

Please pray for them even now for God's protection and safe keeping.



The morning after our arrival Tim Yoss, Village Director, gathered our Rafiki workers, greeted them, and introduced us. Each came to greet us and some even spoke English. You will notice in the picture both of our hands are visible when a handshake is exchanged.



A day or so later we went up to the work shed to greet our workers for the day. What joyous, dear, hard-working people.



We rejoice the Lord answered our prayers to be here by Christmas.

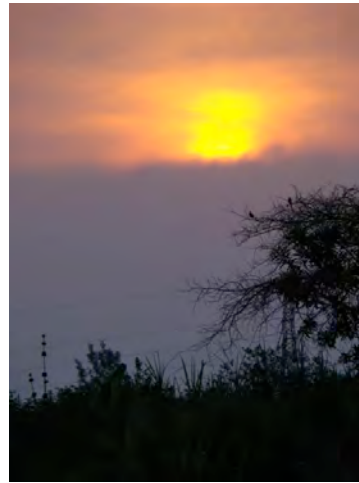
We celebrated our first Christmas here which was also

the first Christmas held at the Village for Tim, Patty, and Cricket. (They had moved to the Village only the day before our arrival.)



Ken got right to work overseeing the electrical workers, Rafiki workers, and carpenter crew with Tim. They oversaw the moving of the generator into its building and then worked with carpenters building closets in the first children's cottage, Joshua. Soon the electrical cable arrived to be strung through the poles. No equipment available, with the exception of two trucks, a ladder and hand tools, but the job was soon accomplished by sheer man power. It was a blessing to hear the men sing as they "heave-ho" pulling the line through the cement poles.

We seem to be settling in nicely here, much in part due to the wonderful teammates God has placed us in amongst. The sunny skies and warm breezes are lovely which makes applying sunscreen part of our daily routine. We are nearly 5,000 feet above sea level and two degrees south of the Equator.



We thank God often for you as you partner with us in prayer and financial gifts. You enable us to serve through the Rafiki Foundation to help hopeless orphans in Africa to become godly contributors in their country. We close now as the sun sets over the hills of Rwanda. (Say goodnight John Boy.)

With much love and many prayers,

Ken and Bev

Ken and Bev

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EAST AFRICA

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Praises

- To the Lord God of all heaven and earth
- For opportunities we have to serve the Lord
- Celebrating the birth of Christ, our Lord and Savior in the Village this year
- Arrival and installation of electric cable
- Safe transfer of generator to its building
- For our safe travel to/in Africa

Prayer

- For protection and safety of orphans who one day will call Rafiki home
- For worker safety, integrity, and accuracy
- For faithful daily study in God's Word
- For prayer and financial support team for Primrose Pennicooke, our next ROS team member
- For good communication amongst team
- For the acquisition of work permits and visas to go smoothly
- For the processing of the Rafiki container
- For a good vehicle at a fair price