



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

January 2007

It was October 2003, just ten months after opening the school with two kindergarten classes. We were already at a crossroads with first grade scheduled to begin in two months. We had outgrown our existing buildings and the children were making too much noise, disrupting the Bible School students. We needed more rooms, and a different location. Most of all, we needed government certification to teach grades one through seven. Not necessary at the beginning with only kindergarten classes, we were unable start first grade without it.

To discuss our predicament, a meeting was arranged with Marion and Loretta Sluys and Godwin outside Starbucks in Poulsbo. We waited for Godwin to arrive wondering what was taking him so long. Soon he appeared with a package in his hand explaining that he was just going to mail it. Emerging from the UPS store, he headed toward his car, and then realized that we



were waiting for *him*. Neither Sluys nor we had received his email canceling our meeting. He quickly assessed the situation and decided God was in this misunderstanding and the timing of his package mailing. Thus began the 'miracle meeting' that changed the outcome for the future of the school. At that meeting (that almost didn't happen) Marion's '*nothing is impossible*' and '*God goes forward, not backward*' attitude emboldened us to expect a miracle. We were not disappointed. In the next two months property was acquired, certification was granted, and funds procured to start a school on land almost adjacent to the existing Bible School property. This is no small miracle. Four families allowed us to relocate them, thus freeing up their property for the school. Then, the Minister of Education paid an unexpected visit, needing help from Eliudi. Eliudi used the opportunity to share with him that we needed some help getting the school registered. The Minister signed the papers for us that day. This was another miracle, as there's a gentleman in Dar es Salaam who has been waiting *ten years* to get a certification.

Since then there's been quite a ripple effect. From this foundation, people have come forward to fund several projects. You have all had a part in the building of buildings and the building of lives of now 380 children. The locals are amazed at the speed with which all this has happened.



We are thankful for our dear friends, Marion and Loretta, who responded to God's call to bless the children of Sakila. It has been our joy to work with them and watch this miracle unfold.

Their hands-on involvement is what inspired the official name of the Sluys/Anderson Primary School, by the leadership in Sakila.

Many of you decided to share Christmas blessings with the families of your sponsored children. There will be several families having other needs met. They will be receiving

chickens, goats, roofs, a concrete floor instead of dirt, a couch, or a cow to name just a few. It's not too late for you to participate. Just send money designated for the need of your child's family.

Don't forget our Annual Potluck on Sunday, January 28th, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm after church, in the Christ Memorial Church Fellowship Hall. If your last name begins with A-L please bring a salad or dessert. M-Z please bring a main dish, hot or cold. Christ Memorial is located on the corner of 8th and Hostmark in Poulsbo, WA. Godwin and Eliudi will be there to share the latest about your children and the progress of the school. If a few of you can come a little early or stay a little late we could use your help with the set up and take down.

Linda's Consignment Shop in Port Orchard blessed us with over 80 bags of clothes for children and women. If a few of you would like to help us remove tags and put these almost new items into bags to get them ready to ship to Sakila, please call and we'll meet at our house Saturday, January 20th at 10:00am for a couple of hours or until the job is done. Many hands make light work.

(Note: Tax statements will go out with your next newsletter, which will be mailed the end of January.)

In the Master's service together with all of you,

Gene and Lorraine Anderson

All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to I.E.O.-S.S.P. or pay securely using your credit card by going to www.sakilasponsorship.org and clicking on 'donations' in the 'Contact Us' menu item.