



# Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

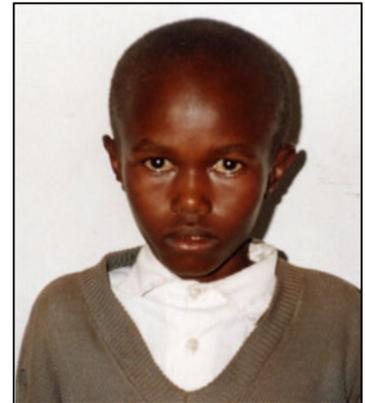
February 2009

Happy February! Well, it's not quite February yet, but we had to get the newsletter out early so you could have your tax statements. God was good to the sponsorship program in 2008 in spite of the economic difficulties here in the states. See the other side of this letter for a summary of the blessings. Our African brothers and sisters are suffering, too. Godwin's wife, Kim, was kind enough to write the story for us this month about her time in Sakila in 2008.

*"This past summer, my family and I had the privilege of taking another trip to Tanzania. Although I have lived in Tanzania and taken more trips there than I can count, I looked forward to this trip with as much anticipation as the first time. I always enjoy visiting our family and friends there, as well as seeing how the ministry grows from year to year.*

*"One of my favorite experiences of the whole trip was the day we spent passing out gifts to some of the children whose sponsors were also visiting from the U.S. We gathered all the care packages that had been sent and walked down to the Bible School where the families were waiting with their children. We called name after name and watched as their faces lit up at the sight of a gift. Many of these children have never received something new before, so to have these small gifts was exciting for them. Many of the sponsors were there to personally deliver these treats to the children they have been faithfully sponsoring for years. I watched as sponsor after sponsor wept at the sight of their child and hugged and loved on them like they were their own. They would walk off and sit in the grass and visit with the children and their parents as the kids opened their presents.*

*"One particular child has stuck in my mind since that day because of the blessing his family received. His sponsors wanted to do something special for the whole family, so they had put together a few baskets of food and other necessities for the whole family to enjoy. As this boy and his father saw the blessings that their family would share, they thanked their sponsors over and over. What wasn't known at the time was that this family had several other children at home and had been struggling to feed everyone and they were unsure where their next meal would come from. So when they saw these baskets over-flowing with all the things they were desperate for, they were overjoyed!*



*"When their visit was done, they lifted their baskets of food onto their heads to make the long walk back home. Villagers the next day told me how the two of them were dancing down the street and shouting at the top of their lungs, "God is good, God is faithful!" Many of you will never set foot in the village of Sakila or meet your children face to face, but because of your faithful support, these kids and their families see a practical example of the faithfulness of God. The school they attend, the food they share, the uniforms they wear, the medical care they receive are all tangible ways they know that God loves them and has a plan and a purpose for their lives. Thank you for allowing my family and I to work hand in hand with you all to see the next generation of Tanzania shouting, 'God is good, God is faithful!'" ~ Kim Selembo*

The boy in the photo is the child Kim refers to in the story. The people are in-between crops right now and food is scarce, but you gave us enough money over Christmas to bless the family of every child in the school, all 527 of them, with a food packet that will contain rice, tea and sugar. Godwin will be buying the food and distributing the packets when he goes to Sakila the first week of February. Thank you so much for sharing! They can do without having their other needs met but they can't stay healthy without adequate nourishment, especially the children.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always." ~ Psalm 105*

In spite of these turbulent economic times, God continues His faithful provision for the children and their families through the generosity of those who support and pray for the Sakila Sponsorship Program. At this writing there are only twelve children in need of sponsors out of the 527 children enrolled in the school. Here's a list of *some* of the blessings received in 2008:

- Ten and a half acres of property is being purchased for a Secondary School (High School.)
- A Computer Lab is under construction.
- The LeRoy Snyder classrooms are nearly complete, giving us a total of 14 classrooms. Only one more building is needed to complete the Primary School campus.
- The fence is complete and a house, cookhouse and goat shed are under construction for the goat project. We're almost ready to purchase the first fifty goats.
- Two houses, one done and one almost done, being built by sponsors for two of the families. There will be another house built in 2009. That will make the FIFTH house sponsors have provided.
- 83 children of the kindergarten class received quilts made with lots of love and prayer by the ladies of Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo, WA. and Trinity Christian Center in Sister, OR.
- Ten TON of rice was sent in March '08 for the Primary School and the Bible School.
- Marion & Loretta Sluys hosted an Awards Banquet, giving a bonus to all teachers, staff, & board.
- Each of the families of the top 6 students (K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade) received bonuses, too.
- 21 teachers, 8 helpers, and 3 supporting staff = 32 paid staff plus 8 volunteer board members.
- We now have 527 students at the beginning of January 2009.
- Many in-kind gifts, including \$4,000 of cooking oil for IEC and SSP, almost \$2,000 web hosting, site development, and tech support, and all mailing and office supplies were donated.
- Many individual families of the school children are being helped with extra food and other benefits.
- All of the families were blessed (almost 500) with an *extra* gift of food in February 2008.
- Through the generosity of a sponsor, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will take a one-day safari in February.
- S.S.P. and Christ Hope Orphanage pooled funds to provide a vehicle for Rogathe. This will enable her to use her valuable time more efficiently as she serves both the School and the Orphanage.
- Many sponsors and supporters faithfully give and pray for this ministry. God has graciously answered those prayers. We give Him thanks.

God has done more than we ever imagined and we are blessed to be a part of His plan for the children and families of Sakila. The High School property is more than half paid for. It's been fun to see where the money comes from. There have been some large donations and the small, extra amounts we receive each month from faithful supporters. God bless you for the part you have played in blessing this ministry through giving, whether large or small, as God enables you; and, through your faithful prayers.

Our annual POTLUCK is **Saturday**, Jan. 31st at Christ Memorial Church, on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Hostmark in Poulsbo, WA. We always have a great time. One of our newer sponsors from Sequim is bringing her friends to sing for us. Marion and Loretta Sluys will be showing pictures they took in September 2008 of the children around the school grounds and in the classrooms. Bishop Eliudi and Godwin will be there to give us the latest news. If your last name begins with A-L please bring a salad or dessert. If it begins with M-Z please bring a main dish, hot or cold. See you at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall!

*Gene & Forraine Anderson*

The Sakila Sponsorship Program is a certified 501(c)(3) Charity. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Sakila Sponsorship Program (S.S.P.) or pay securely using your credit or debit card by going to [www.sakilasponsorship.org](http://www.sakilasponsorship.org) and clicking on the 'CONTACT INFO & DONATIONS' button.