



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

December 2009

There will be singing and story-telling again this year at our annual potluck on Saturday, January 30th. Please mark your calendars. You won't want to miss it. We always have a wonderful time — more details next month. We had a great visit in Sakila for 3 weeks in October. We give a special thanks to Diana Shaw for her excellent bookkeeping while we were gone. We found the children very thin but thankfully healthy. The drought is bad and getting worse. We saw skinny and dead animals and so much dirt, as far as the eye could see. We're using your extra giving for the two major needs we have right now: food and construction of the final classroom to complete the Primary School campus. The Lord has been answering your prayers for rain. Keep it up. More is badly needed. The worst months are Dec. to mid-March.

Lisa Zempel, a Junior High School teacher from Gillette, Wyoming, writes this month's story:

"I would like to share a story about God's amazing work in a secular school setting. I went on my first mission trip to Tanzania about five years ago. I was immediately hooked but unable to return until the summer of 2008. While at the primary school in Sakila Village, I was so moved, oftentimes to tears, by the contrast of that setting compared to my own back home in Gillette, Wyoming. I teach in a junior high school in a county where money has never been an issue in its allocation for each student in my district. There are never any deficits as far as provision for every academic need goes. We are all blessed by the benefits that come from living in an area saturated with coal, oil, and methane as our natural resources. Our students never "want" for anything. The contrast between schools was so stark that I was grieved in my spirit by the fact that our students have so much and yet often care so little about their education. The opposite was true at the primary school. They have so little and yet care so much about their education and the privilege of attending school. They were hungry to learn and so happy and enthusiastic about the learning process that it was hard not to be reduced to a puddle of tears as they vied for the opportunity to show my team their knowledge and/or mastery of a certain skill or concept. It was a touching and memorable experience to witness first hand.



"I left Africa feeling so very conflicted, almost guilty, by such a vast difference in lives and opportunities for living and learning. When I returned, I had a week to recuperate from my trip before I reported back to school for our first day and an all staff meeting. Prior to my return to work, I had been praying for God's favor with my students, their families, my colleagues, and my school's administration. I prayed that God would move and reign in that environment and that His Name would be made famous somehow. When I got to school that day my principal approached me before the meeting began and asked that I share a little about my trip to Africa. With the contrast between two worlds still so sharp in my mind, I had no trouble sharing from my heart about the school and those precious students in Sakila Village. There were about 115 staff members that I addressed that morning and you could have heard a pin drop! I just opened my mouth and the Holy Spirit gave me the words to speak into the hearts of those who listened.

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"Later, when the meeting concluded, I was swarmed by staff wanting to get involved somehow and help this remote little school two continents and body of water away. I was overwhelmed. I was asked to teach about Tanzania for the World Cultures classes when they were ready to begin their unit on Africa. I used a power point and slide show set to music, which is always very powerful, during my presentations. At the conclusion of each presentation, we had some discussion time. During this time, the students became very interested in knowing how they could help. As a result, the idea was born to adopt this humble school with such meager means and manpower to educate their growing population of students. We became a small grass roots group of students and staff that shared a common interest and desire to raise enough funds throughout the year to purchase well needed school supplies as well as additional funds to purchase computers for the primary school in Sakila Village. We decided to call ourselves, "Project Africa". We sold t-shirts with our name and slogan to our school and community. We had bake sales and school dances, "pipi" (candy) and flower sales. We had a student "hat day" and a staff "jeans week", ran school concessions for games, had a "fill the box with school supplies" competition between Social Studies classes and individual grade levels, and a school wide read-a-thon with pledged donations for every word we read! We hosted a prime rib dinner at our school with live entertainment from our Sage Valley Junior High chorus group and they sang songs in Swahili. We had silent and live auctions and a pie auction. Over \$14,000 was raised that eventful evening!

"After writing a letter to the district school board members, requesting permission to acquire old chalkboards being replaced by newer white erase boards, our group also obtained eight chalkboards to ship to the school. In that same letter, I requested permission to take part of my core group of student volunteers to Poulsbo, Washington to help load the containers leaving for Tanzania in March. To my astonishment, I was granted permission to do so AND the school district paid for the entire trip. Talk about favor! We had news paper coverage when Bishop Eliudi Issangya visited our school during our "fill the box" event, as well as when his son Godwin Selemba came to accept our final check in person. When all was said and done we raised \$22,225. Every time I think of that, I almost start to cry.

"God is so very faithful and good and I still can not believe that this all happened in a hard core secular school setting. Everywhere we turned, another door of favor opened for us. I am not sure what all happened in the "heavenlies" during this time but I am believing that the blessings were two-fold, perhaps mainly for us on this side of the big pond. Who really knows?!? Only God knows the eternal purpose behind all of this. Perhaps not everyone involved in this endeavor knew first hand Who reigned sovereign over this "project" and perhaps not everyone knew from Whom our favor and help came, or Whose Name was made famous here, but our Project Africa team knew full well and we witnessed countless lives that were changed for eternity's sake. I know that mine will never be the same, and for that I sing His praises and give Him ALL the glory for the miracle He performed at Sage Valley Junior High School, right before our very eyes!!!"

In His Service, Lisa G. Zempel

The funds generated by Lisa and her school will be used to equip the computer lab currently under construction. This specialized building is a gift from Marion and Loretta Sluys. We were able to get the children's uniforms for \$100 each again this year. That's good news. This includes pants, skirts, leather shoes, shirts, socks, undergarments, boots, sweaters, and backpacks with supplies. Now, just try to do *that* in the U.S.! This one uniform must last them the whole school year. We set aside funds for this expense all year long, but with 600 children... well, you do the math. If you'd like to help it would be most welcome. November 2010 will be the graduation of our first class of children. Have you been thinking about a trip to Sakila? This would be a great time to go. Space is limited so you'll need to decide by February. We appreciate all you are doing for the sake of the children and the school. God bless you!

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 and clicking on the 'CONTACT INFO & DONATIONS' button.