



# Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

December 2010

Merry Christmas! We had a great trip to Sakila last month! We were able to bless Samweli's family with your contributions, attend the graduation ceremony of the first 61 students to complete their studies at the Primary School and see the progress on the Secondary School. One thing for sure, God never allows you to stand still. Colin Huffman gives us his impressions of our visit (second for him and first for his son):

*"I recently made a return journey to Sakila with my 10-year-old son, Garrett, the Andersons, Sluys and Pam Wallis. Everywhere the welcome we received was consistently genuine. We were always treated as guests of honor. The people welcomed us into their homes, school and culture. Never have I met a people so aware of their gift of rebirth through Christ. Church services are celebrations, opportunities to sing, dance, and rejoice in the gift Christ so freely gave. The graduation ceremony also became a celebration. Visitors see reasons to express joy at things previously viewed as mundane or common. The joy is infectious.*

*"Our family has sponsored Arnold and other children of Sluys/Anderson Primary School since their kindergarten years. We set out on a Saturday morning to visit their families and give them some small gifts. We arrived at Arnold's home only to find that he and his mother had already left to walk the hilly 4 miles into Sakila to go to market. But we enjoyed our visit with Arnold's father who expressed his gratitude with tears of joy at meeting the people who were giving his son an education so he could rise above the poverty. The language barrier did not stifle his gratitude as he expressed his appreciation so clearly through his emotion.*

*"Our other 'children' were home and the greetings from them and their families were the same. With thankful hearts we were offered tea, chickens or anything else they thought would be a blessing to us despite them having so very little to give. Each family laid hands on us and prayed with much power and conviction. They understand God is behind the acts of kindness shown to them and that He is responsive to their prayers.*

*"After our visits we returned to Sakila and were gathered near the main church having afternoon coffee and visiting with those that came by. Unexpectedly a mother and her son appeared. I had met Arnold 4 years earlier but did not recognize him right away. Arnold pointed us out to his mother and she approached us. They had walked the 8 mile round trip to market, through hilly terrain to find they had missed our visit to their home. Wanting to see us, they walked back into town to repeat the 8 mile round trip just to see us. We had a wonderful time visiting with them. Much like the father, both Arnold and his mother showed an immense amount of gratitude for all of the love they had been shown. With darkness nearing they rose to leave when Arnold's mother reached into the bag she had kept securely tucked against her side. She pulled out a package and gave it to Arnold to give to Garrett. In the package were 4 eggs, worth the equivalent of a day's wages. This selfless gift illustrates the gratitude that is felt by the people of Sakila for our help.*

*"Garrett learned so much from our visit. He saw complete joy and contentment, despite poverty and folks who love the Lord their God with all of their hearts. He saw faith and a complete dependence on God from people who have so little, yet so much. He experienced people who understand the gift of Jesus."*

*~ Colin Huffman*

You can easily understand why we enjoy taking folks with us to Sakila. Colin's reaction is typical of visitors to the Village. The potluck is on a Sunday at 2 PM on January 30th. Please mark the date. More details to come. God bless you and have a wonderful time celebrating the birth of our Lord!



First Graduating Class of the Sakila Sponsorship Program Students from Sluys/Anderson Primary School



L-R: Garrett & Colin Huffman with Arnold & Mother



Samweli's parents with their one surviving son

Some have asked about sending a Christmas gift. The greatest blessing of all would be if you could sent a little extra gift of money for Godwin to get beans and corn when he visits in January. They will be running short of food by that time and an extra meal or two would be appreciated more than any material gift. These folks have a difficult time just feeding their families. God bless you for blessing the families of Sakila!

*Gene & Perraine 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.