



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

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The following is a personal account by one of our sponsors, Annie, recollecting her 2007 trip to Sakila. She is pictured below with some of the children, two of whom she sponsors:

“Since I was a little girl, I’ve always wanted to go to Africa, the place of my ancestry. I’ve thought of it as a place of great mystery and beauty, and I’ve always been fascinated by the strength of the people. And, of course, I have always been concerned about the poverty and the great needs of so many there. Because I find it so hard to comprehend, the genocide, hunger, brutality, famine, and lack of basic needs have just broken my heart. Every day on the news we hear about the tragedies taking place all over this wondrous and beautiful continent. Then, to hear first hand the heart-breaking stories of the members of the African Children’s Choir made me realize that what is happening in Africa is not so remote and far away. So the question has always been, ‘Well, Annie, what can you do to make a difference?’ I had felt the Lord constantly putting Africa on my heart.

“An opportunity to get more involved came when my husband and I decided to support a child to attend school in Sakila. It was so exciting that we were not only making provision for the child’s education, but we were supplying the youngster with a uniform, meals, and helping to pay the salaries of the teachers. We saw this as a win-win for everyone—the children, teachers, the community, and the economy. We would be contributing the boots *with* the bootstraps for pulling themselves up.



“So when I had a chance to work at the school and meet all of the wonderful people who are making it happen day in and day out, and to meet our sponsored child and his family, I jumped at it. But I have to pause here to acknowledge God’s hand in all of this. Missions are what the Great Commission is all about, and God honors those who reach out in this way. That has been one of the pillars of our church’s foundation. I have no doubt that our reaching out as a congregation to so many countries and needs, has resulted in the many blessings that we as a church and individuals have experienced.

“As my husband and family will tell you, I am still levitating from my trip to Tanzania. It was everything I thought it would be and more. I simply fell in love with the people and saw God’s hand everywhere. I met the child we are sponsoring and his family, the wonderful staff (teachers and others) who are there day in and day out. I was able to help around the school in small ways, and to see how the Lord brings order to those things He has His hands on. In addition, to see how the Lord has touched the hearts of many to support both the Sluys/Anderson school and the Bible school is so touching and inspiring. The vision for the future that is taking hold in people’s hearts just leaves me breathless at how our yielding to the Lord’s calling has brought about such a transformation in so many people’s lives. I honor all of those that have gone before us, and laid the foundation for what now exists. And I ask the Lord to help us remain faithful so that this great work will continue to grow. As a result of this experience, I will never be the same.

“We had a lot of fun on the safari, and during the many gatherings at the school. The food was much better than I expected, but the cold showers took some getting use to. **And, yes, I do plan to return.**”

Annie will be going to Sakila again this year, and this time her husband, Ed, is coming, too. It's been five years since she was there, and so much has changed since then. We think she will be amazed at the progress. Here's some great news: It has been raining in Sakila! Praise the Lord! Please be encouraged that God hears the prayers of His kids — please continue to pray. They desperately need to get this crop all the way to harvest.

Other prayer requests: Please pray for the containers to reach Sakila safely. They will be on the dangerous seas for another 4 weeks. We don't have any photos of the ongoing repairs from the storm damage yet, but we'll share those when they come in. Thank you to all who are helping with funding for that need.

We can't tell you how much your support and encouraging words and notes mean to us. We're like one big family with a common goal — that of uplifting a whole generation of young leaders. And, the work is prospering! We now have 11 more boarding students making a total of 33. These kids get up at 5 a.m. to *pray*, dress, eat, and go to school. Because they come to us fully funded they are no burden to the program. Thanks for all who have increased your giving this last month. We are so grateful to God for your dedication to the task of making sure these children have every opportunity to succeed.

In Christ's love,

Gene & Forraine Anderson