



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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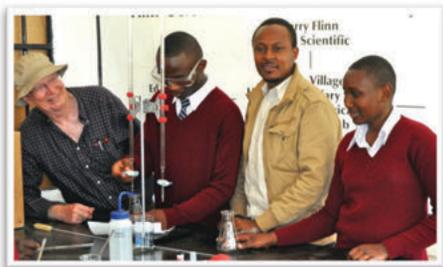
Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

January 2015

The annual **POTLUCK** for this year is on **Saturday, January 31st** at Gateway Fellowship on the corner of 8th and Hostmark in Poulsbo, WA. We have a special treat in store for you. Dan Simmering will show and narrate slides from our October trip. His book on the ministry of Bishop Eliudi will also be available for a contribution to the Sponsorship Program. 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 2:00 PM in the Pearson Fellowship Hall.

Tax receipts will go out the end of this month! Make sure we have your current address, especially those who receive your newsletter by email.

Ed Ramey, a Chemistry/Physics/Math teacher of 32 years, accompanied us on our October trip. Here's his report and a photo of Ed with the Secondary School Chemistry teacher, Lolo, and some very excited students:



"Given that I never dreamed I would travel to Tanzania, I am thrilled to be able to share with you some of my impressions of Sakila. I was asked to make the trip because the Science Department at Sakila Secondary School wanted to implement a laboratory-based modern science curriculum. I was pleased to meet the members of the science department and, most importantly, Lolo, a young energetic chemistry teacher anxious to learn.

Now, you must understand that building a Science Department that depends upon a laboratory-based curriculum is a difficult and expensive undertaking. Larry Flinn of Flinn Scientific was contacted through a chain of fortuitous connections and he volunteered his Foundation as a funding source for a significant portion of the supplies and equipment. The catalogue published by the company is a great resource for safe science experiments and teaching tips making the creation of a laboratory-based curriculum doable. Lolo started reading major sections of this thousand-plus page resource guide for teachers. He quickly mastered the skill of looking up locally obtained chemicals and determining the correct storage category and disposal technique for each of the many chemicals we had to obtain locally due to shipping regulations. He worked overtime on most of the days I spent with him in Sakila.

Several of the Science Department faculty invited me to observe and do demonstration teaching in their classes. As the students encountered me in both Biology and Chemistry they grew comfortable with asking me for help in understanding the concepts we were teaching. Keep in mind, Sakila Secondary School is held in high regard by all of the schools, public and private, in the area. What I experienced was a very good school willing and eager to become better. Students and Staff were all willing to be part of a team to help improve their education.

The Director, Godwin Selembo, articulated to the faculty the goal of improving the teaching-learning interaction to extend the State mandated curriculum to include a strong Science/Math-based learning program, including discovery learning through a laboratory-based curriculum to encourage critical thinking skills. Meeting with a small group of students after Chemistry class, they committed to being part of a team working to improve the teaching/learning act. They had a desire to understand at a depth beyond rote learning and were willing to help the teachers improve teaching by respectfully asking for deeper understanding of the how and why of the subject. We have a situation ripe for explosive growth – students who want to learn and teachers who want to teach!

I was warmly received by a wide range of people that I met while walking to school each day and while working with the staff, teachers and students. The joy of greeting people with "Jambo" ("Hello") and shaking hands with everyone you pass on the path to school; the guard and custodian who asked me why I treated them so well, which elicited hugs and tears; hitching a ride on the back of a motorcycle (without a helmet) to school in return for a picture. These are the memories that will force me to return again and again. I look forward to recruiting Biology and Physics teachers who can be teacher/trainers to support the growth of Sakila Hebron Secondary School."

We, also, look forward to enjoying Ed's company on many more trips! Thank you to all who blessed the children by giving money for meat. And, thank you for your Christmas cards and encouraging notes. We appreciate you. Have a blessed New Year as we continue to work together to help the children of Sakila with support and prayer.

Gene & Perraine Anderson

The Sakila Sponsorship Program is a U.S. Federally recognized 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.