



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

December 2015

We'd like you to meet Shanna — a twenty-year-old college student with a heart to serve the Lord, who accompanied us to Sakila in October. She leads worship at her church in Billings, Montana, shown below with one of the two children she sponsors. The child in the picture is wearing a T-Shirt Dress (t-shirt on top, skirt sewn onto the bottom) that was a gift to our ministry made by loving hands.

"This trip was very eye opening for me, although it wasn't what I expected. I expected my heart to be burdened by the poverty or the desperation. But my experience contradicted my expectations. I was, instead, encouraged because of the hope I witnessed in the people. Encouraged because of what God is doing in and through the people. Encouraged because of what people like Godwin and Kim, Gene and Lorraine are doing for the people. Don't get me wrong. There was definitely pain, poverty, and need; but for me the people's hope in Christ superseded the obstacles.



In fact, a renewed hope in Christ was probably the biggest thing I walked away with. As I was reading my Bible I stumbled upon a passage in Numbers 20:14-21. The Israelites needed to pass through the city of Edom, but were denied passage and threatened by Edom's powerful army. After just reading about God performing an amazing miracle by splitting the red sea only a few passages earlier, I found myself somewhat disappointed in God's involvement throughout this story. God could split a massive body of water but he couldn't split the city? God asked me, "They still got through didn't they?" Then I got it. God always gets us through whatever we encounter in life, but not every time does he simply split that situation apart so we can stroll through it. Sometimes we have to take the long journey, trust him, and be patient. That is what the people of a small village in Tanzania taught me.

The people there wait for everything. I saw a sign on a house that read, "It will happen. Amen." They had been building that house for years. It is not uncommon to start building a house and finish thirty years later. I met several children who walked miles to get to school, investing many hours of walking there and back, everyday. How many times when we pray for something, do we expect a result immediately and when God doesn't 'split the waters' we walk back to Egypt with tails between our legs? But, it takes the same kind of faith to see the waters split as it does to trust God to take you around the city. These people understand this. They don't always see results immediately, but they believe in the God who always delivers those results.

How lucky I was to experience first-hand that kind of faith. For many this school is exactly what they have prayed for so many years. This school not only provides schooling for the children but it provides them with the opportunity to support themselves and their families in the future. It also provides jobs for many in the village — teachers, headmasters, gatekeepers, cooks, and gardeners. What a privilege it is to be used by God, to be a part of that long-awaited answer to their prayers." ~ Shanna Blaede

We encourage you to visit the website at www.sakilasponsorship.org to see a new, professionally done video by long-time sponsors, Mark and Deborah. It shows more than the school ministry. Some of the children you are supporting will grow to be involved in the other areas of ministry described in this video. Also, check out the 'Wish List' for suggestions for your year-end giving. Please mark **January 30th** on your calendar. That's the date of our annual potluck. Details later. God bless you so much for your love for the children and your faithful support! Have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Gene & Lorraine 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.