

Spring Newsletter

May, 2013

Our mission in this newsletter is to express appreciation for all of our benefactors and to make a call for your help spreading the good news about Living Waters International's student sponsorship program. **YOU** are making a difference! Have you told friends or family about your sponsorship? Would anyone else be interested in sharing and spreading the work of educating children in East Africa? In this issue you will find brief articles of student sponsorship success stories as well as the ever-growing needs for new financial contributors.

"The students proudly showed me their Spartan living quarters and we had a dance party, and I was smitten. Peter had come to the home after the death of his parents from illness. I now exchange letters with Peter and he updates me on his studies and life in general."

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Emma Ashburn - New board member

WELCOME ABOARD!

In December 2010 I had the opportunity to spend 10 days in Tanzania visiting MSFS and St. Ann Sisters missions. During that time, I saw the difference LWI makes in the lives of African children. I began sponsoring my student, Peter Gasper, after I spent a day with Peter and other boys living under the care of Father Jomon Joseph and the other MSFS priests at the SFS Children's Home in Ipuli, outside of the city of Tabora. The students proudly showed me their Spartan living quarters and we had a dance party, and I was smitten. Peter had come to the home after the death of his parents from illness. I now exchange letters with Peter and he updates me on his studies and life in general. *Emma Ashburn, Vice President*

Emma K. Ashburn grew up in Washington, DC. She graduated from Yale in 2004 with a BA in East Asian Studies. After college, she spent a year living and studying in the Yangtze River city of Nanjing, China, where she also was a volunteer English teacher for the children of migrant workers. After returning to DC in 2005, she worked on Capitol Hill for a commission monitoring human rights and rule of law in China before getting a master's in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in DC. She then worked as a journalist in Shanghai before starting her current job as director of research at the Paulson Institute, which is based in Chicago and was founded by former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to improve US-China relations.

On the Battle Front

Tanzania, East Africa has a population above the 46 million mark. The vast majority of the population is farmers and pastoralists still using traditional methods of cultivation and depending on seasonal rainfall for their crops. Most of them are illiterate and have never gone for any formal education. People live mostly in the rural villages and follow their traditional practices.

Many missionaries have taken proactive steps to reach out to these people in remote villages by providing opportunities for quality education and better medical care. Because of the missionaries' tireless efforts, the younger generation is becoming more aware of the need for formal education and more families are sending their children to school. Missionaries are also educating adults through seminars and catechism instruction insisting that they abandon the deleterious, traditional practices of early childhood marriage and female genital mutilation.

In carrying out this mission, missionaries depend to a large degree on funding agencies and charitable organizations for financial assistance. It is only through charitable contributions that good works are accomplished in these remote rural areas.

Living Waters International is doing a great job through their student sponsorship program. Through this program, many children are now receiving a quality education in Tanzania and other countries in East Africa. Through their sponsorship program, Living Waters International is helping children who are very much in need of financial assistance to receive an education. All children who are aided by Living Waters International are either orphans, children who are abandoned by their parents, or come from very poor families. If it were not for the efforts of the Living Waters International sponsorship program, these children would have been forgotten or neglected. It is a noticeable fact that after helping them and bringing them to a formal education, all the aided children are at the top of their class in academic performance and other extracurricular activities.

Living Waters International is not only concentrating on the studies of the children, but the growth of the child as a whole person. The benefactors of Living Waters show their generosity to the families of the children and assist the families, especially through special gifts of food and other basic provisions during the festive seasons of Christmas and Easter. When one child is given an education and is brought to the mainstream of society, the whole generation that follows him is saved. There are still very many deserving children who would be saved if someone were there to help them. We wish and pray that God may give generous hearts to many more people to help such children and create for them a better world.

Fr. Paul Santhosh, MSFS, Bukene, Tanzania



Fr. Paul Santhosh, MSFS



Happy children after Christmas dinner, provided by supporters of Living Waters.

SPOTLIGHT on Jonas Bizeka, Mozambique by Eileen Hartl, Board Member

“All that is gold does not glitter.” J.R.R. Tolkien

Last December, in a letter to his former sponsors from St. Patrick Parish in Lebanon, WI, Jonas said, “I have obtained a job - a livelihood for the entire family where no one else is employed! I’m employed because of my education which you prayerfully and financially supported.” These words, though very heartwarming, came as somewhat of a surprise. In 2010, St. Patrick learned that Jonas quit school and that he had fallen victim to an irresistible temptation to go to South Africa to gain quick money. Fr. Alex Tigga, Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, who oversaw Jonas at that time asked St. Patrick to, “... pray for his future.” Eventually, as in the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jonas returned home.



Jonas Bizeka

His motto: Gostaria de brilhar como uma pedra de ouro. (I would like to shine like a golden stone)

Jonas completed his education and went on to get a license for professional driving. Through the help of a good friend of the missionaries, he was hired at an office supply company called Vista. His good friend and pastor, Fr. Sebi Annaikandthil, MSFS, stated, “Jonas received a promotion because of his intelligence, good behavior and dynamic personality, now he works in the company as an assistant accountant. Presently he is attending night school studying accounting.”

“One secures the gold of the spirit when he finds himself.” Claude M. Bristol

Jonas doesn’t forget the friends from St. Patrick’s and others who’ve come to his aid. “I always think of you and pray for you with joy because you sowed good seed on the earth, especially because you opened your hands for me and through and with you I continue to praise and thank God.” The seeds of goodness continue to sprout. With the help of a Good Samaritan, Jonas got an interest free loan for his handicapped brother to attend a course in basic electricity in a recognized institute for the educationally challenged in Maputo, Mozambique. Another individual donated money to rebuild his family’s house that had fallen during a heavy rainstorm. In his quest to find his place in the sun, Jonas is working and continuing his education with the intention of paying off his debts and perhaps one day he will buy a small plot of land and build a house of his own.

These are the dreams and the faith of those who profit from the good deeds of the missionaries in East Africa and you, the supporters of Living Waters International. The golden nuggets of education, self-motivation and commitment to family, are paving Jonas’ way to self-realization and fulfillment.

- ✓ Love
- ✓ In
- ✓ Small
- ✓ Things

PROJECT LIST

Project LIST looks at the little ways and the small things that can make a BIG difference in the life of a child in East Africa. In the battle against poverty, one of Living Waters International’s goals is to help turn every contribution into big benefits. No contribution is too small!

CHILDREN IN NEED



NAME: Yusta Paul
BIRTHDATE: January 12, 1999
GENDER: Female
COUNTRY: Tanzania
FAVORITE PASTIME: Choir & Dancing
FAVORITE SUBJECT: Civics



NAME: Damaris Mueke Nzomo
BIRTHDATE: 2002
GENDER: Female
COUNTRY: Kenya
FAVORITE PASTIME: African Dancing



NAME: Thadeo Ochieng
BIRTHDATE: May 18, 2003
GENDER: Male
COUNTRY: Uganda
FAVORITE PASTIME: Gardening
FAVORITE SUBJECT: Math



NAME: Leonida Nhacuonge
BIRTHDATE: November 4, 1998
GENDER: Female
COUNTRY: Mozambique
FAVORITE PASTIME: Soccer
FAVORITE SUBJECT: Science



STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

\$25 a month provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniform
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly \$25
- Quarterly \$75
- Semi-annually \$150
- Annually \$300

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.

To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at:

www.livingwatersinternational.org

*"If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is asking you for a drink, you would've asked him instead and he would've given you living water."
JN4:10*

