



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

February 2018

Godwin takes us back in time to give you an update and *'the rest of the story'* on Wema. You've heard of her in previous newsletters but we feature her again because she is really a remarkable young lady.



"It's an early Thursday morning in October of 2009 and the air is uncharacteristically cool for Sakila. In a few hours we will be tasked with an impossible job of choosing who will get to enroll in our school and who leaves with their hopes and dreams crushed. Later in the morning, there are hundreds of children waiting. In the crowd I spot a little, shorter than usual, girl. Her name is Wema. Her smile is shy but powerfully captivating. As I watch closely I realize that Wema has a severe limp, and upon further examination, has a prosthetic leg.

As the process of registration continues and her name is one of the few chosen, she is called forward for a photo to officially enter her in our sponsorship portfolio. She approaches with a shy, but determined gaze. In an attempt to get some details about her I speak with her father. It is then I learn that, because of her leg, she has walked for about an hour and a half to the selection meeting. Because of these circumstances my initial and adamant decision is to turn her down and recommend they find a school closer to home. Both she and her father then meet me with an incredible and determined resistance. She will not be denied. She promises to be on time every day, and should she fail at that, perhaps we can dismiss her — but not today.

For the past seven years she has done just that. She has attended school without fail and she has done very well academically. Along the way she also picked up a few friends in the U.S. at Gateway Christian Schools through our sponsorship partnership who started to fund her prostheses. She now has a fund that ensures that she gets a new a leg whenever necessary. This last October 2017 she tested for the national secondary school entry exam and she passed with high marks. And just this month of January she was enrolled at our own Hebron Secondary School as a boarding student in order to alleviate her need to walk back and forth to school.



Wema's quiet but determined resolve has inspired many, including myself, to not only look beyond our circumstances, but to strive for even bigger achievements. We all need to set goals that are greater than those set by others on our behalf based on their assessment of our capabilities.

Again, thank you greatly for your continued partnership in this mission. As we determinedly offer hope, we are seeing God transform lives right before our eyes. Lord bless you!" ~ Godwin Selembo

We hope to see you soon at the **Annual Potluck, Saturday, February 3rd** at Gateway Fellowship in Poulsbo, WA at 2:00 PM in the Pearson Fellowship Hall. Godwin and Gene return from their January trip a few days prior to the Potluck with up-to-date Sakila news. And we'll have some sharing by recent visitors, too. 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. God bless all of you for your dedication to the future well-being and happiness of your boys and girls in Sakila.

Gene & Forraine 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.