

Nambale Magnet School

A home, a school and a future for children made destitute by the AIDS crisis

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FEATURED STUDENT



I.M. is10 years old, andin fourth grade. He was one of the first students at the Nambale Magnet School in January, 2009.

He loves the color red, loves to play football (soccer), and aspires to become a policeman one day!

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GO DEEPER

If you've never seen this video of the Rev.Evalyn Wakhusama accepting the Lux et Veritas award at Yale Dvinity

School, here's a link

... be inspired!

October, 2012

Dear Friends of the Nambale Magnet School -

I am honored to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to share with you about the visit my family and I made to Nambale Magnet School this summer. My name is Janet Waggoner, and I met Evalyn Wakhusama, the founder of Nambale Magnet, when we were in seminary together at Yale Divinity School. Even back then, when most of our peers were dreaming of traditional leadership roles in the church, Evalyn was dreaming of starting something new - and much needed: founding a school near her hometown in rural Kenya.

Now, 13 years after I first heard from Evalyn about her dream, the school is a reality! My family (my husband, Ed, and our two children, Wynne and Ben, ages 9 and 7) and I



have prayed for and supported the school all these years. In July, we finally had the opportunity to visit the school. What an amazing time we had with the students and staff at Nambale Magnet!

I want to take this opportunity to share with you three of the things that most deeply touched my heart . . .

The staff of Nambale Magnet care for each of the children as if they were their own. As we got to know each other, I asked them what was the most challenging thing about their work with the children. Several of the staff echoed what one staff person said, "When the children are ill, that is the hardest. The first year was the most difficult. Many, many of the children were so ill - with malaria and worms and many other diseases. Now, after several years when they have eaten well and received medication at the school, they are very healthy. They are able to learn and to play."

Every single penny, every little thing, we send to the school is put to good use.



While our children attended classes with the learners, Ed and I helped out around the school. When we unpacked boxes of books received from donors in Connecticut (through our partnership with American Friends of Kenya), the books were received with delight - and even the boxes were put to good use - some as teaching aids! Here you can see a teacher using a "recycled" box in English class, explaining the

concepts, "in, on, over and under." Other cardboard was transformed into number lines for preschoolers. And their gratitude for each and every little thing was overflowing.

Ed and I visited the families of several of the learners, and their hospitality was overwhelming. In keeping with Kenyan custom, each household we visited presented us with a gift. One family shared their precious eggs. The grandfather of another learner prayed for us and gave us his blessing. The grandmother and guardian of yet another learner tearfully poured out her gratitude - and asked for one thing: "Please, please continue this good work. Then perhaps my youngest grandson can attend Nambale Magnet and learn like his brother!"

Ed, Wynne, Ben and I were blessed beyond measure by our visit to Nambale Magnet. We returned home more committed than ever to supporting these students as they learn and grow. As we traveled back to Nairobi

from Nambale, I asked my daughter, Wynne, what she learned from our time in Nambale. She talked about how much fun it was to learn with her new friends, and then she said, "I also learned



that I have a lot of stuff. I can share more." I invite you to join us in "sharing more" so that the learners at Nambale Magnet School can study and flourish.

With gratitude for our partnership with you and our friends in Nambale,

Janet Waggoner Interim Pastor, Rejoice Lutheran Church, Coppell, TX WIKS-USA Board Member

Blessings!

The WIKS-USA Team