

# Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Advent Newsletter

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Living Waters' mission is the support of Roman Catholic missionary and international development projects in East Africa.

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## Lighting a Path to a Better Future by Karen Prunty

The Christmas Star lit the path of the wise men seeking the baby Jesus. This Christmas, 145 sponsors are shining their light on a path to education and a brighter future for children of all ages including young men studying as seminarians.

A few facts about Living Waters' student sponsorship program:

- It began in 2000 supporting the education of children from poor families in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique.
- 206 students are in the program; of these almost half are now in secondary school (high school). Thanks to our amazing sponsors, the program has grown with the children because many sponsors have been providing funds since their child was at a young age.
- We serve the poorest of the poor. Many children have no parents because of AIDS and are being raised by a relative, usually a grandparent. Others have a single parent, under-employed parent(s), or agriculture families struggling through re-occurring droughts.
- The \$300 a year our sponsors send us provides for a quality education including school fees, uniforms, supplies, medical needs and meals. Perhaps most significant, sponsored students receive life orientation through Catholic Christian formation!
- Living Waters acts as the go-between between sponsors and missionaries.
- Presently we work with 27 mission sites coordinating student correspondence and distribution of funds with the priests and religious sisters.

Earlier this year my husband Brian and I had the incredible opportunity to meet some of these students on our travels in Africa. One young lady was a former sponsored student, and when she learned we were traveling in Uganda, she took the initiative to find a way to meet. Her name was Sylvia, and she wanted us to know that she had just graduated from teacher training college. She is a beautiful young lady and when she greeted us, she had the brightest smile. Sylvia spoke emotional words of "thanks" for her sponsors, Danielle and Thomas Quinlan of Antigo, WI and Living Waters International, who gave her the chance to complete her secondary school studies and advance to the teacher training college. She is well on her way to a very bright future. I was humbled to tears seeing this young lady glow, knowing God united us all out of love for our brother and sister. **(Continued on Page 3)**



Sylvia with Brian & Karen Prunty



## A Seminarian in Need

I developed a strong passion for being a priest during my boyhood, even before I became an altar boy. As an altar boy, I became more acquainted with church matters and this sparked in me a greater desire to become a priest. I participated in many parish activities and people started calling me “padre mdogo” (which means “small priest”), and I really loved that title! As a religious missionary, I believe God wants me to serve the poor, the elderly, underprivileged children and the despaired youth so that they may savor the greatness of God. Since I joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, my conviction about my vocation has always been high. I pray God will continue to accompany me in my journey till I reach his holy altar.



Thank you & God Bless.  
Brother Dennis Dindi

**To sponsor Brother Dennis, please see the enclosed form or find him at our website under “Programs”.**

**amazon**smile

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Living Waters International. When you shop at AmazonSmile, (smile.amazon.com) the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to Living Waters International, Inc.

## Here to Be Light

by Eileen Hartl

December 16, 2016, a baby girl from Kenya by the name of Goretti was born into this world with a congenital defect known as bladder exstrophy. Her bladder was protruding from the wall of her abdomen. If left untreated, it would lead to greater complications including renal failure. The darkness and intensity with which this little girl was born left her parents desperate and uncertain whether they could save their child’s life. Goretti’s father is deaf and mute, making it very difficult to obtain work, and her mother had to quit her teaching job because of the round the clock care she needed. They began to reach out to relatives, fellow villagers and anyone else that could help with the expenses incurred by her day to day needs and surgeries that would follow.

Living Waters International is also reaching out. We were able to help with proceeds from summer fundraisers along with support from personal donations, Catholic Financial Life and St. James Choir of Cooperstown. Collectively, \$4,810 was realized.

After her first surgery and in a letter to Living Waters, Goretti’s aunt, Sister Feliciana Njagi, *Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood* said, “Up until her first surgery, she spent most of her life crying.” Now, in this Advent season of mounting light we’re told, “That smile from her little face tells you that you have caused a miracle in her life and in our entire family. I can only say ‘THANK YOU’ and implore Gods blessings on your lives. I am very grateful, and I pray that God in his generosity will reward you from the abundance of his heart. He has the right and greatest reward for the kind people that you are.”



**Goretti with her aunt, Sister Feliciana**

A smile costs nothing, but it’s how Goretti and her family can show their gratitude. I hope her smile will remain in our memories forever. We are here to be light for those who are suffering in this world, particularly for the poor that don’t have the resources for healthcare, food, education and the like. Thank you to all who participated in our summer’s fund-raisers, volunteers and patrons alike for letting, “... your light so shine.” Matthew 5:16.

Goretti must undergo four more surgeries to correct this deformity. If you wish to donate, please see the enclosed form.

**Visit us at our website at [www.livingwatersinternational.org](http://www.livingwatersinternational.org)!**



# SPOTLIGHT

by Eileen Hartl, LWI Board Member

**Today we're shining the light on Aldo Nhaca from Mozambique.**

There's a saying, "One thing leads to another, everything is connected." In December of 2004, Bob and Jo Lompfrey picked Aldo from a list of several students awaiting sponsorship. Jo said, "I chose Aldo because one of my favorite books, *A Sand County Almanac*, is authored by a man who shares the same first name, Aldo Leopold." The book's subject matter: ecology and environmentalism. Fast forward thirteen years and Aldo has graduated as an Agriculture Technician from the Institute of Agriculture in Salamanga, Mozambique.

As it happens, Aldo is from a district where most of the people earn their livelihood from agricultural products and animal rearing. Aldo chose agriculture to help improve on the unsystematic and primitive ways of production in his country. "I joined this course to learn more about farming and animals and to teach my people by bringing new development in society." Aldo has applied for work with various companies and is eagerly awaiting a call for that one interview that will land him a job in his field. Meanwhile, he is staying with his grandmother and doing some daily jobs in construction.

Despite being continents apart and a language barrier, Bob and Jo have enjoyed their connection with Aldo over the years. "We were happy to help, it's good to make a difference both locally and globally." It took many individuals over the years to raise Aldo, an orphan child, and it took great faith and trust in God who sees the bigger picture and connects the dots. "I am indebted to many people; my parish priests and community and my sponsors Robert and Jo Lompfrey who have accompanied me since my childhood. God bless you all. I urge those who can be generous to join hands with Living Waters International in this educational ministry."

May God bless you Aldo, you are an inspiration to all of us. You can be assured of our prayers this Christmas for a bright and promising future.



**Aldo and Steve Zimmerman,  
LWI Executive Director**



## **Lighting a Path to a Better Future**

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Unlike the United States, a high school education is not a right for many African youth. Getting into a good secondary school is difficult because the obstacles they face are huge. They have to successfully pass the National Examination at the end of grade school. Failure means dropping out or attending an overcrowded government school with little resources. Women at this age are particularly challenged because they struggle with cultural practices, which encourage marriage or pregnancy much too early.

Sylvia beat the odds. Sylvia has eight siblings and her father did not have steady work. Her tuition fees and boarding would not have been possible without a helping hand. ***"Sylvia's faith and determination in achieving her goals has been a source of inspiration for Tom and I. We are grateful to have been a part of her life."*** Danielle and Tom Quinlan.

Yes, obstacles, but I have renewed trust in the Holy Spirit who has provided generous sponsors and will continue to bless us, so we can continue partnering with the many hard working priests and sisters to help make a difference to the poorest of the poor.

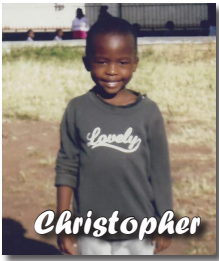
Together we are lighting their path to a better future. Thank you! If you would like to shine light into a needy child's life, see the back page or visit [www.livingwatersinternational.org](http://www.livingwatersinternational.org).



You have given without measure to your brothers and sisters in Africa. May the birth of our Savior fill your hearts with joy this Christmas and sustain you throughout the New Year.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
Steve, Brian & Karen, Emma, Ann, Tina & Eileen

# Students In Need



My Name: Christopher Zakaria    Monthly Sponsorship: \$25  
 Gender: Male    Favorite Subject: Math  
 Birthdate: March 23, 2012    Favorite Pastimes: Playing with friends  
 Country: Tanzania  
 Chores: Collects firewood  
 Other Remarks: Christopher lives with his father and mother and is the oldest of three children. His father is a fish peddler and struggles for the family's livelihood. He can't afford to pay for Christopher's school fees and kindly requests your help.



My Name: Baligiya Sulaiman    Monthly Sponsorship: \$25  
 Gender: Male    Favorite Subject: ABC's  
 Birthdate: Unknown    Favorite Pastimes: Playing with friends  
 Country: Uganda  
 Chores: Collecting firewood for their dinner meal  
 Other Remarks: Baligiya's parents separated, leaving him with his grandmother who can't afford to pay his nursery school fees. He really loves school, but due to the situation of his grandmother, he cannot attend. Baligiya needs help now!



My Name: Isabella Wilhelm    Monthly Sponsorship: \$25  
 Gender: Female    Favorite Subject: Mathematics & English  
 Birthdate: October 31, 2010    Favorite Pastimes: Reading  
 Country: Tanzania  
 Chores: Helping her mother with cooking & cleaning  
 Other Remarks: There are seven members in the household. Her father is a peasant and her mother is unemployed. Their monthly income is \$20.00.



My Name: Diana Isadore    Monthly Sponsorship: \$25  
 Gender: Female    Favorite Subject: ABC's & Numbers  
 Birthdate: February 29, 2012    Favorite Pastimes: Playing with friends  
 Country: Tanzania  
 Chores: Assists her mother in any way possible  
 Other Remarks: Diana's parents are very poor and cannot afford to pay her nursery tuition.

To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at: [www.livingwatersinternational.org](http://www.livingwatersinternational.org)



## Student Sponsorship

**\$25 a month provides help for:**

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- 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.



## Water Restriction Leads to Action by Eileen Hartl

Last June, residents of Kaukauna, WI received a "Boil Water" notice from their city water works. A water main break caused the system to lose pressure. Residents also bought bottled water for drinking and food preparation. While one would never wish for such a thing, it provided a valuable lesson for the students and staff of *Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School* at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Kaukauna. Their plan to support a rainwater harvest project for the SFS Primary School in Kagongwa, Tanzania was in the works. Students, staff and other community members raised \$1,768! Thank you one and all and a special thank you to Nancy Vande Hey, VBS Director for initiating the project.



*Nancy Vande Hey in prayer with VBS students*