



952-928-2550

Info@DaystarUS.org

www.DaystarUS.org



INSIDE



A heartfelt message to you from President Laban



New graduates at Daystar's 41st Graduation

Daystar U.S.

8011 34th Ave S, Ste C50
Bloomington, MN 55425

For the advancement of Daystar University, Kenya

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 131

DAYSTAR NEWS

FALL 2019

President Laban Shares from the Heart



I thank God for the privilege He has bestowed upon me to serve as the 4th President (Vice Chancellor) of Daystar. I pray that He always goes before me during my tenure as the leader of this great Christ-centered University in Kenya.

*As a Daystar Community in Kenya, we are greatly indebted to the men and women across the world, particularly from the USA, who have sacrificed immensely through providing scholarships for needy students as well as provision of the necessary university facilities over the years. **Your support has seen the under-privileged and down-trodden benefit from a world-class university education that would have otherwise been out of reach to them.** I am a living testimony of the impact and transformation of a giving heart considering my background of having been born and raised in the slums of Kibera. It took the kind hearts of Americans Bob and Faith Weinstein to have me live with*

*them and so gain access to an excellent primary school education. This provided me with a very strong foundation that enabled me to excel at school later on in life. **May the Lord replenish all of you who have tirelessly given for the poor and subsequently to the well-being of Daystar University. May God bless you all abundantly.***

As I reflect back on the past six months in office, perhaps the biggest achievement has been the revived hope and purpose in the university. Coming in against a background of turmoil, God has seen us through the healing and reconciliation process that has actually become the leaven that holds us together as a Daystar family.

I have witnessed tears of endearment replace the separation between friends that had been common at Daystar. What have I learned so far? That I must commit myself tirelessly to represent the idea of a leader who has a soft heart, a strong mind, and serving hands. This is my promise to Daystar.

The combination of nurturing students, staff, and faculty to have soft hearts, strong minds and

PRESIDENT LABAN
continued on next page

Making Dreams Come True



By Alan Cooke,
Executive Director of
Daystar U.S.

A couple months ago five Daystar U.S. staff and

board members and I had the privilege to visit Daystar University, both for graduation and a retreat with our African colleagues. Graduation is always such a joy – watching students graduate and celebrating with them and their families is something that is difficult to describe. **What would it feel like to have a dream come true – something you never thought possible? We see that fulfilled and the accompanying joy in the faces of these future leaders of Africa.**

The retreat was something I had not experienced in my 20+ years at Daystar. There were over 60 participants at a small retreat center near Daystar's Athi River campus. It was such a blessing to not only join our African colleagues in their future planning, but also to eat every meal and spend three days in such close company. Each meal I was able to get to know another staff, faculty or Daystar University Council member. I really think this is what heaven will be like – time bonding with many brothers and sisters from across the world.

Your investment into Daystar is making a difference, both in the lives of your colleagues at Daystar University and in the lives of students. Thank you for empowering this next generation in Africa!

How Your Investment in Daystar Impacts Students

From Daystar Scholarship Students Living on Campus:



CATHERINE: "I am able to engage fully in extracurricular activities such as clubs, associations and Shine FM radio. Christian fellowship is most vibrant."



DANIEL: "On campus I enjoy the diverse cultures, praying for God's people, mission trips together and helping the needy. We also have Bible study groups and chapels."



CONSUL: "On campus I enjoy nature walks, climbing hills with friends, and sports practices. Many students turn out for morning prayer meetings at 5am."

Hope for the Future



By Frank Lloyd, Daystar U.S. Board Chairman

It was my pleasure to participate in Daystar University's governance and strategy retreat in June. The theme was "A New Dawn," from Isaiah 43:18-19—"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I am doing a new thing." Daystar U.S. was included in this triennial event for the first time in many years. The U.S. sent a contingent of six. We were joined on the first morning by Dr. Alan Cureton, president of the University of Northwestern in St. Paul. Not only did the U.S. delegates fully participate, we contributed presentations on various topics.

I got to know many Daystar leaders whose names I had only seen. I am encouraged that President (Vice Chancellor) Laban and his leadership team is good hearted, well-intentioned, and capable. They were eager to listen to the U.S. participants.

A spirit of hope and goodwill ran through the retreat. There was consensus that Christ must be at the center of the school. The challenge is to keep the spirit of hope alive beyond the retreat, build unity, and define and prioritize the initiatives necessary to achieve increased future impact. With God's help and U.S. support it will be done.



Daystar students recently planted over 700 trees on the Athi River campus.

A New Revived Athi River Campus Community



By Walt Avra, Development Manager

What a difference a year makes. After one year away from Daystar University, the budding first steps in President Laban's plan to renovate and reinvigorate Daystar's Athi River campus were immediately apparent on our recent visit.

Early the first morning, Laban energetically guided Alan and I around the Athi River campus. Laban has big plans. His vision is that Daystar will be a beautiful place where people meet their loving Creator and share in a new community of believers on mission for Christ. Laban has a big heart and instills a faith in what is possible with God's help. **The renovated Athi River campus will be a place full of trees and spaces that inspire the heart and mind, a place of prayer and worship and life-long friendships, a place of security and rest.**

Laban is a man of action. The next day, we saw the bulldozers clearing the debris. Just last week, students planted over 700 trees on campus. A new security wall is about to be built. New dorms are in the planning. I look forward to seeing the amazing changes that will take place in the coming years under Laban's leadership and with the help of U.S. friends.

PRESIDENT LABAN continued from page 1

...serving hands constitutes my biggest mission at Daystar as I seek to have this university flourish once again. This deliberate emphasis of allowing all to flourish becomes important at Daystar because it characterizes a holistic concern for the spiritual, moral, physical, economic, and social context

...necessary for us to actualize our vision of excellence, transformation and servanthood.

I seek your continued encouragement and I pledge to be a trustworthy steward of the physical, financial and human resources that you put at my disposal as the President of Daystar.

Finally, Daystar exists to glorify God through education as a way to reach

our ultimate goal for godly living as expressed in the Westminster larger catechism – "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". We at Daystar have purposed to live up to this high calling.

I count on your trust and support.

In Christ's Service,

Daystar University Celebrates Its 41st Graduation



687

DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

17

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY GRADUATES

23

GRADUATING SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY U.S. FRIENDS



Faith and Gladys (above) are two of the 23 Daystar University graduates whose education was made possible because of support from U.S. friends.

Thank you for making their stories possible!