

Introducing Daystar's Fourth Vice Chancellor



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

Change is a normal part of life, but it is reassuring to know that times of change and uncertainty are not a surprise to God. One translation of

Jeremiah 29:11 states, ***“For I know what I have planned for you,” says the LORD. ‘I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.’*** (NET)

This last year at Daystar has been one of transition and hope.

Dr. James Kombo was the interim Vice Chancellor (VC) at Daystar during this last year following the departure of Dr. Timothy Wachira (the VC role is the same as a U.S. university president). The Daystar Council (its governing board) conducted a very thorough and transparent search process for a new Vice Chancellor.

Employing an executive search firm brought 30 applicants; the Council engaged all stakeholders at Daystar and narrowed it down to the top three applicants. The Council made the final decision and brought on the new Vice Chancellor on March 1st.

African leaders have led Daystar since 1979 – 40 years of local leadership! This has continued with the fourth Vice Chancellor, Dr. Laban Ayiro, a Kenyan by birth. Dr. Ayiro is a Christian man of integrity and well-qualified academically with three masters degrees and a PhD. He also was a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Ayiro was the interim VC of Moi University in Nairobi (a public university with more than 50,000 students) where he also served as the interim Vice Chancellor, Director of Quality Assurance, and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Administration and Planning. In addition, Dr. Ayiro has written over 30

publications and is a leading consultant for UNICEF and the World Bank Group on Higher Education Reforms and Economics of Higher Education in Kenya.



The fourth Vice Chancellor of Daystar University, Dr. Laban Peter Ayiro.

Dr. Ayiro and his wife of 41 years, Agnes, have eight adult children and seven grandchildren. He will be attending the Daystar U.S. board meetings in Minnesota the end of April – we are excited to meet the new VC! Please feel free to send me any notes or emails of welcome to our new VC and I will pass them along (Alan@DaystarUS.org).

We are excited and “filled with hope” for the new leadership that the Lord has provided.

The Daystar U.S. team regularly prays for our colleagues in Kenya and we ask that you add Dr. Ayiro to your prayer list as well. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the mission of Daystar!

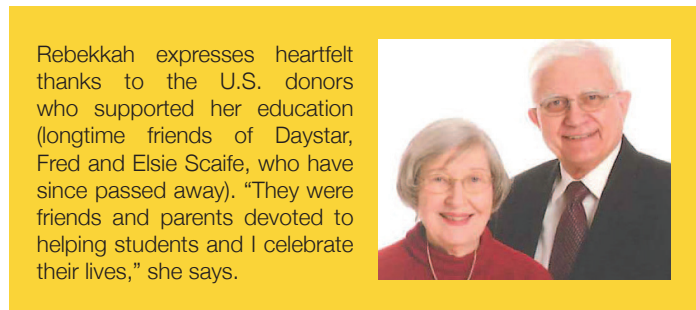


Professor Ayiro receives prayer for his new office.

Daystar Alumna Seeks Justice, Loves Mercy, and Walks Humbly with God

Rebekkah* considers it a miracle to have graduated from Daystar University in 2006. After a medical tragedy, she went to live with relatives to alleviate her parent's financial burdens. Her cousins constantly rebuked her for being a "poor country girl," struggling to make her way in the big city of Nairobi.

A series of miracles led Rebekkah to apply to Daystar University and receive a full scholarship. At Daystar, she experienced renewed self-esteem and sense of purpose because someone invested in her. After graduation, she worked as a grant-writer for an organization that cares for AIDS and HIV-positive women, which allowed her to invest in others needing spiritual encouragement.



Rebekkah expresses heartfelt thanks to the U.S. donors who supported her education (longtime friends of Daystar, Fred and Elsie Scaife, who have since passed away). "They were friends and parents devoted to helping students and I celebrate their lives," she says.

"My passion is lifting and empowering women out of poverty," Rebekkah explained. "When women are empowered, generations live a dignified life."

For this reason, Rebekkah pursued a career in politics. Now Rebekkah serves in the Kenyan government for a prominent elected official. Rebekkah daily remains steadfast and faithful in a culture of greed and power.

Working with the government is a tough but great experience. It calls for prayer, humility, patience, and integrity. I need God's daily renewal of favor and guidance... My day and life in government starts and ends with praise, worship, and prayer.

Daystar is influencing African governments, schools, banks, businesses, healthcare operations, and other institutions through alumni like Rebekkah.

*For her protection, we've chosen a different name for this alumna.

Kenya's Chief Justice Endorses Daystar University School of Law

The January 2019 semester marks the start of the second full term of Daystar's School of Law with an enrollment of 20 students. Daystar is encouraged to have the full support of Kenya's chief justice, Hon. Justice David Maraga.

At the School of Law's official ribbon cutting ceremony in November, Chief Justice Maraga highlighted the immense need for not only more lawyers in Kenya, but lawyers of integrity. Kenya is dramatically underserved, with the number of lawyers being about half as much as the

international recommendation. **"The country needs legal professionals who can stand up for truth, honesty, and godliness. We need lawyers who put God first in their lives and in their profession,"** he added.

Despite a strong vision to impact the legal sector in Kenya and Africa, enrollment to the School of Law has been much lower than predicted. Daystar will need about 100 new students in the next year to break even on expenses. Until the number of students increases and the



Chief Justice Maraga at the ribbon cutting.

school can begin generating income, expenses for facility rental and faculty pay cost the university \$40,000 per month. Please pray with us that God stirs up Kenyan's hearts for justice and prompts many to join this School of Law.

If you know someone who has a desire to help this crucial School of Law bring Christ-centered justice to Kenya, please contact Alan@DaystarUS.org.

Spiritual Impact at Daystar

The life-changing message and model of Jesus is Daystar's hope and mission. Jesus is the one who is changing lives through Daystar students and graduates.

Daystar focuses great effort and energy on shaping every student to know Jesus Christ and make Him known as they represent Him as servant leaders in Africa. Each student is nurtured through weekly Bible studies, chapel services, prayer meetings, outreach opportunities, and a community marked by love, truth, compassion, and service. Your investment into Daystar University is yielding great spiritual returns!

Outreach: We praise God that He is drawing many to know Christ through Daystar staff and students!



273 Daystar students made the decision to accept Christ as their Savior over the last three semesters! 126 of these students finished the follow-up discipleship program as they begin their new life as Christians.



Last semester, 86 students and six staff members went out on a mission trip to Western Kenya near the Uganda border. Praise God that 150 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ during this mission trip.

Discipleship for Christian Growth:



Every week about 4,500 Daystar students attend chapel services and participate in small group Bible studies led by Daystar staff and faculty members. Last semester's chapel theme was "Walk with the Lord" based on the book of 1 John.



Last year 179 staff members were trained to become more effective Bible study leaders. Each staff member is being trained in how to integrate their faith in Christ with their teaching in a course called "Theology of Work."

Please join us in praise and prayer for God's working in students at Daystar!



Daystar students gather for prayer.

Witnessing the Transformation

By longtime supporter Will Wright after his February visit to Daystar University



Will Wright receives a gift from Daystar's Corporate Affairs Manager, Mrs. Damaris Kimilu.

How were you introduced to Daystar?

My wife and I had the opportunity to travel to Kenya in 1990. We drove by the Nairobi campus and were intrigued to find out more.

What was a highlight of your time on campus?

Most enjoyable was getting to meet some of the students and hear the sincere gratitude they all had. To see where the students attend classes, live, and interact gave me so much more of a complete sense of the excellent place Daystar has become.

Why have you continued to support Daystar for so many years?

I have been able to see firsthand results that honor God. I believe the most significant change in a person's life is when they make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. To then provide first-class education to these servant leaders gives each of them tangible hope for the future. The faculty and staff are doing a fantastic job coming alongside the students.

There are always needs for scholarships, additional student housing, upgraded technology resources, cost-effective access to water, etc. However, Daystar is doing a very good job of getting the most out of the funds that they are entrusted with. I am confident that what I give financially to Daystar is used wisely.



Daystar U.S.

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For the advancement of Daystar University, Kenya

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A Pleasing Aroma of Partnership

As a thank you for supporting Daystar's mission to educate Christ-centered servant leaders to transform Africa, **we are sharing a special gift with the first five people who contact us after reading this newsletter to share what they appreciate most about Daystar University.**



We've created a custom-roasted blend of Kenyan coffee highlighting the brightness of Kenya with supporting notes from the Americas. This coffee reflects the "pleasing aroma" (2 Cor 2:15) of partnership between Daystar University and thousands of U.S. supporters.

For a chance to win a one-pound bag of coffee, contact Alan at 952-928-2550 or Alan@DaystarUS.org with your appreciation story.



The 2018 December scholarship graduates.

118 Students Helped Last Semester!

118 Daystar students were supported with a scholarship or a Hope Fund grant. Thank you!

As you'll read inside this newsletter, a supporter who recently visited Daystar and met with some students said, **"What sincere gratitude they all had. They were so very much appreciative of the opportunity to attend Daystar."**

You helped make a first-class, Biblically-rooted education possible for these students. Thank you for supporting these leaders who will bring lasting, positive change to their communities.