



Daystar U.S.

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*For the advancement of Daystar University, Kenya*

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# HAPPY\*THANKSGIVING

## Real lives making a lasting impact!

**This is why we are so excited about Daystar...**

Every day, our Daystar U.S. team sees the beautiful faces of those who have been impacted by your generous scholarship support. Donors such as you have helped over 2,000 Daystar students over the past 30 years! Each photo of scholarship alumni on the walls of Daystar U.S. represents a story of change in homes and communities throughout Africa.



Visiting with some of this year's scholarship students

What a joy to tell your scholarship students in person of your love, support and prayers during our recent trip to Daystar in Kenya. Daystar students are **maximizing your impact** in Africa as they bring truth, compassion, and local solutions back to their communities and into the world.



Daystar U.S. staff sharing stories of alumni

**Want to learn more about what you've read? Visit our website [www.DaystarUS.org/indepth](http://www.DaystarUS.org/indepth) for photos and videos to help you dig deeper into the stories!**

# HABARI★DAYSTAR

FALL 2018

## Daystar's 40th Graduation Ceremony is Filled With Hope

In July, Daystar U.S. staff and board members were blessed to visit Daystar University for its 40th annual graduation ceremony. The guest of honor, the Attorney General of Kenya, spoke on the significance of the university reaching this milestone. The smiles of 684 graduates filled the warm air as thousands of family members and friends cheered them across the commencement stage.



We praise God for each generous donor whose gifts and prayers made this day happen

for the 25 scholarship students who graduated. We love hearing these graduates speak of how Daystar and their donors have transformed their lives. One scholarship student, Brenda, reflects on her time at Daystar:

*"Looking back on 2013 when I first came to Daystar, I see a naive, fragile and immature girl, but four years later I am now a lady who is on fire for Jesus! I am a leader by example and a news anchor/presenter in the making... Daystar has taught me so much and has given me an environment to thrive academically, socially, spiritually, and professionally."*

Every year hundreds of servant leaders launch out from Daystar into every area of African society. They not only carry good news, but they themselves are



good news for their workplaces and communities as they bring integrity and a Christ-centered worldview. They join Daystar's alumni network which is almost 19,000 members strong.

Your investment into Daystar University enables compassionate, African servant leaders to generate African solutions for numerous challenges faced in Africa. Thank you for contributing to the 684 hearts set ablaze in 2018!



Brenda, 2018 Communications Graduate





# Alumni Spotlight: Mary Mambo Impacts Thousands

Mary Mambo left a lucrative career as a nurse practitioner to pursue a master's degree in psychology from Daystar University. Now she holistically serves the needs of the people living in the Mukuru slum. She was honored at this year's graduation as an exemplary alumna.

## Mary's Ministries:

Deliverance Church  
Cana Family Clinic  
Cana Maternity  
Cana Children's Home  
King's Education Center

Clinic providing services ranging from immunizations to AIDS/HIV treatment and prevention

2,000 healthy babies delivered last year

200 students currently enrolled in primary school

58 girls living safely in the children's home

0 mothers lost during 25,000+ births



2 former children's home girls now on scholarship and enrolled at Daystar University



Prisca

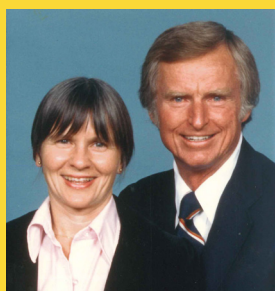


Cynthia

## TREASURING DAYSTAR, HONORING LEGACY

Remembering two important leaders who firmly believed Daystar is the long term answer for Africa

### Rev. Roger Anderson



The Daystar U.S. office reflects on the life of Rev. Roger Anderson. A good friend of Daystar, Roger was someone who had a love for people everywhere. His life was one of service for the Lord and for others. His dedication

to Daystar's mission in Africa was evident by his support through Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Edina, MN, his personal giving, and raising funds through friends, family, churches, and just about anyone else who would listen. He was fearless in sharing the mission and requesting support. We will miss you Roger, though I am sure heaven has become much more lively with your arrival. Our love and prayers are with his wife, Dottie, and the family.

### Mr. Dale Decker

Daystar celebrates the life of Mr. Dale Decker, the first chair of the Daystar U.S. board of directors, who went to be with the Lord on October 6th. Dale will be missed and remembered for the lasting and important impact he had



in helping with the founding of Daystar University as the independent, African-led, Christ-centered institution it is today. Dale was instrumental in the transition of leadership to an African Daystar Board in 1982, along with Mr. David Fields and Dr. Don and Mrs. Faye Smith. He also was a generous supporter of many Daystar scholarship students. We are so very grateful for the life and legacy of Dale Decker.

# Daystar Celebrates School of Law Accreditation and Welcomes New Students

We praise God for your many prayers that helped move the Daystar University School of Law's accreditation through! After delays with the accreditor and two long years since its inception, the School of Law finally received its official accreditation letter. New students are admitted and classes are in session.

This accreditation comes at a timely point in Kenya's history. Crackdowns on the judiciary amidst this politically-charged climate point to the need for Christ-centered lawyers of integrity to bring reform to Kenya's justice system. Kenya's Director of Public Prosecutions recently stated that, "The justice system only works if lawyers, prosecutors, magistrates and judges are fair and just." (Daily Nation, 2018)



Daystar University School of Law inaugural class and professors

Daystar is committed to training lawyers who are: resistant to corruption, committed to the rule of law, advocates for social justice, and contributors to the economic prosperity of the whole nation. This unique law program will enable Daystar to take strategic action in the fight against corruption in Africa.

**We are eager to partner with friends in the U.S. through a newly created law scholarship fund.**

## Daystar Athletics Department Running Toward the Goal of Empowerment and Expansion

Daystar University's Sports and Recreation Officer, Maurice Masiga, spoke with the Daystar U.S. staff in Kenya this July about the university's vision for the future of its athletic programs. The multifaceted plan would both improve existing facilities and expand offerings by building new facilities.

Daystar's current sports facilities are in dire need of an update. Wear and tear has led to broken exercise equipment in the gym, and outdoor fields and courts are starting to become unsafe, with cracked pavement and uneven surfaces due to age.



Maurice Masiga and student athlete, Rachel, meet with Daystar U.S. staff

In regards to the addition of new facilities, **Daystar envisions a future where it is the premiere location for sports and training.** A locker room facility for new artificially turfed soccer and rugby fields would allow Daystar to host home games. The addition of a track and a pool would help to keep Kenyan athletes in the country for training and help the university **gain recognition on an international scale.** This would also bring about new avenues for sports evangelism in the surrounding community.

One student athlete we spoke with, Rachel, mentioned another aspect that excited her. She noted that **with safer facilities and more offerings, more girls would participate in sports.** She has seen firsthand the fitness, self esteem, and teamwork skills that are built when playing sports and would like more of the female population on campus to experience that.

Athletic scholarships are a new idea for Daystar University. Daystar U.S. is assisting in growing this area through an athletics scholarship fund. **Would you consider investing into the lives of these student athletes?**



# Daystar University Stands Strong Through Kenya's Socio-Political Tumult

Daystar University stands as a beacon of integrity in higher education. The turbulence of last year's political events in Kenya, though, have caused an infectious suspicion to spread, even to institutions known for being morally upright.



A small group of Daystar students boycotted classes and held demonstrations, alleging that the university leadership was corrupt and sharing grievances about student services. **Maintaining student safety as its primary concern** in an already volatile political climate, Daystar's administration closed the university, first in November, 2017 (during a time of post-election violence around the country) and again in April, 2018—both for short periods of time to prevent further unrest. Unlike public universities that remained closed for months, **Daystar's exams and graduation progressed as planned**, with only minor changes to the academic schedule.

In response to the student allegations, Daystar University's governing Council and Company appointed both an outside forensic audit and a blue ribbon task force to do a thorough investigation and implement immediate resolutions. Committed to ensuring a smooth and fair process, the Council agreed to grant Vice Chancellor Wachira's request to use his earned sabbatical leave. During the



Daystar's expert task force celebrates clean audit

ensuing investigations and audit, the more serious accusations were proven untrue (e.g. all funds were accounted for, financial audits came back "clean," with no negative findings). Wachira was cleared of all the financial allegations, which is a testament to his character and the leadership of the university.

A number of student service issues were found to be valid, such as dormitories with plumbing issues, which are related to the longstanding water problems, and the sports facilities are in poor condition. The smaller student issues are being addressed with a new Rapid Response Initiative that has been put in place, while the large projects are being discussed for future development, such as new sports facilities. Daystar's

sustainable water project is key to permanently fixing the water issues at the Athi River campus.

**Ultimately, these issues have not kept Daystar University from fulfilling its mission to transform Africa through its graduates.**

Rather, the challenges propelled hundreds at the university to pray and fast for Daystar and for Kenya.



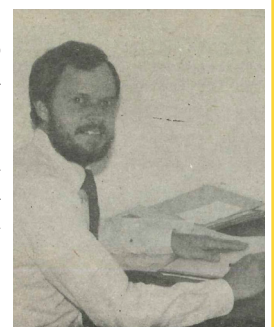
Students have launched a twenty-four hour prayer initiative, covering the university's leaders, students, and organizational processes in constant prayer.

We believe this to be a testament to Daystar's resiliency and steadfast commitment to bring Christ-centered transformation to Africa. **We are eager to see God use these ethical servant leaders to bring positive transformation** to the very political system that contributed to these issues.

Like any higher education institution, Daystar is experiencing a period of reexamination and refocusing. Daystar's past reveals similar periods, out of which Daystar emerged stronger, with greater ability to fulfill its mission to transform Africa by educating Christ-centered servant leaders. We recall a note from an American family, the Shingledeckers, serving Daystar in the 1980's:

"1986 was a difficult year for Daystar as we experienced financial losses, attempts to discredit the administration, and student and staff discontent.

"But the result of these difficulties has been a much improved accounting system, a strengthened administrative team, a new commitment to open communication, and a renewed sense of God's presence and leading. Daystar is much stronger today than it was a year ago."



# Appreciating Timothy Wachira

## Thanks for the Memories

Alan Cooke

Executive Director, Daystar U.S.

Dr. Timothy Wachira was appointed as the Daystar University Vice Chancellor (VC) in October of 2010. In our office we have known Wachira (as he likes to be called) to be a man of integrity. During the last eight years we have appreciated working closely with him. He visited the U.S. to meet with and personally thank many of Daystar's partners. He has an amazing work ethic and cares for those around him. During difficult or joyous times we could expect a note or phone call from Wachira letting us know he was thinking and praying for us. He truly became part of our U.S. team and our families.



Wachira at 2016 graduation ceremony  
(photo credit Paul Tshihamba)

Earlier this year he was granted a sabbatical, during which time the university board (Council) could look into rumors and allegations that were circulating about Wachira. The investigation has shown that the allegations were false and that he is innocent of any corruption. Since then, he and the Council mutually decided that this would be a good time for him to step aside for a new season at Daystar University. Our love and prayers go with him during this time of transition.

If you would like to send a note to Wachira, please feel free to send them to me and I will forward them on to him (Alan@DaystarUS.org). We will miss working with him, though we know that Wachira will remain an integral part of the history of Daystar University and Daystar U.S.

We are witnesses to how Wachira relentlessly advanced the mission of Daystar to educate Christian servant leaders. Overall, he was a visionary and effective administrator for the university. As Vice Chancellor, he:

- Grew capacity and infrastructure with the addition of the eight floor Daystar Academic Center (DAC)
- Expanded Daystar's academic offerings with additional degree programs
- Launched the Athi River sustainable water project to further grow the number of student leaders to influence Africa for Christ
- Integrated faith and learning by creating a "Theology of Work" training for faculty

During our July visit to Kenya we had the opportunity to have lunch with Wachira. He let us know that this year had been difficult, but he had forgiven those who had wrongly accused him and he was praying for them. He has entrusted himself to God and continues to trust Him for the future.



Wachira and Dr. Kathleen Johnson with Mrs. Jennifer Hamm, the 2014 Afrizo Tour Coordinator and dear friend of Daystar

*"I am so thankful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Timothy Wachira as we partnered together to move Daystar University forward. God gifted him with a strong business sense, an amazing vision for the university, a deep faith, and a caring and humble heart. This was evident in everything he did. He is truly a man of God and a living example of what it means to be a servant leader. I am forever grateful for his help and encouragement throughout my time as executive director of Daystar U.S."*

Dr. Kathleen Johnson, former Executive Director, Daystar U.S.



Wachira was the face of Daystar University to so many in the U.S., including these dear friends in CT



# Daystar Rejoices Over New Nursing Equipment

In our last *Habari* newsletter, we announced that the donated nursing equipment successfully arrived in Kenya after a long journey by truck, ship, and train. Now, Daystar's nursing students are using the equipment on a weekly basis, **grateful for the chance to sharpen their medical skills.**

Mrs. Susan Njuguna, Head of the Department of Nursing, shares her thanks with all the friends who made this equipment donation possible:



*"Thank you so much for the equipment for the Daystar Nursing Skills Laboratory. We are now using the*

*equipment in all the clinical courses this semester. It is so fulfilling to even be able to adjust the beds, now that we have functional beds! Two weeks ago we used the digital blood pressure machines to teach vital signs monitoring to the students [who are]*

*learning fundamental nursing skills. May the Lord richly bless you for your role in training of nurses who now have state-of-the-art equipment!"*



Susan also was proud to share that the nursing students who graduated in July all passed their licensing examinations, gained certification, and were hired for professional internships.

We share with Susan and all of Daystar's nursing students in thanking you for your prayers and financial support for this important program that impacts hundreds in Kenya's hospitals and clinics.



## Progress Update: Sustainable Water Project

Daystar University is thankful that a clean, sustainable water source will be coming to its Athi River campus and the surrounding community. Hundreds of generous gifts have brought the project to nearly 50% completion.

In our spring *Habari*, we shared that the project was slated for completion in August, 2018. Progress on the project has halted during the university's brief closures and the resulting investigation period. The cost has also increased (due to Kenya's rising cost of concrete and required design changes). Daystar's Council is working with engineers to map the best way forward.

Despite this news, Daystar U.S. is committed to helping complete this project. We recognize the vast importance of having a reliable water source on campus; it is key for Daystar's future growth and impact in Africa!

Daystar wants to expand capacity at Athi River for 3,000 more students in the next 5 years, but cannot do so without an adequate water supply. The lack of water also keeps other important projects from moving forward (such as building additional dormitories or sports facilities).

When finished, the sustainable water project will enable Daystar to educate and equip more servant leaders for every area of African society. Please join us in praying toward this end.



Daystar U.S. staff and board member viewing the water project



We hope you enjoyed these stories of impact.  
**These stories are yours - Thank you!**



*You have helped to multiply the impact of Daystar's mission. These stories of students and graduates are part of your legacy in Africa - this is the future and hope of Africa, leaders who go out in the name of Jesus to serve. Thank you so much for being part of Daystar's story - thank you for your continued investment into Daystar!*



*Alan*

Alan Cooke  
Executive Director  
Daystar U.S.

