



Inspiring Hope!

Compelled by God's great love, OneLife Africa exists to provide educational scholarships to bright but needy students, mentor them through Life decisions, and equip them to serve Christ in the church and society. Every year for the last ten years, we have overcome challenges, seen exciting growth, celebrated academic achievements, and witnessed transformation in the lives of 327 students enrolled in our programs. These students have been lovingly mentored, equipped, and commissioned by OneLife Africa.



Calvin Shikuku & Edwin Odhiambo
OneLife Africa Alumni

During COVID-19 challenges, lockdowns and directives by the Kenya Government, OneLife Africa found opportunities to continue ministering through community food and medical supplies distributions. Several of our students also joined efforts through other initiatives to creatively and effectively serve in their communities. Calvin Shikuku and Edwin Odhiambo, two of our students, were publicly commended by the Kenyan President, H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta for their service to the residents of Mathare slums in Nairobi, Kenya-an honor that no one was expecting.

Calvin and Edwin have been committed to supporting the residents of Mathare slums through youth advocacy, program implementation and community cleanups. Both were born and raised in Mathare slums and have been part of OneLife Africa scholarship and mentoring program.

Calvin and Edwin were team leaders of a global award winning Green Project Initiative that provides clean, affordable, accessible, and reliable cooking energy to residents of informal settlements by producing briquettes from organic waste, a product that became essential during the Covid-19 pandemic to residence of Mathare slums. OneLife Africa is proud of Calvin, Edwin and all of our students who are providing the much needed help and inspiring eternal hope to communities in need around East Africa.

It is encouraging to note that OneLife Africa students remained diligent in their High school and university studies despite the global pandemic. OneLife Africa University Class of 2021 completed and attended virtual graduation ceremonies. As we celebrate Ten years in ministry, we are grateful to God for His faithfulness, even in the midst of global crisis. We have seen God fulfil His promises in many areas, especially in the lives of OneLife Africa class of 2021. We dedicate all our graduates to God as they seek to serve Christ in their communities and vocations. This Newsletter contains three brief stories of Class of 2021 university graduates.

We commit and commission our OneLife Africa class of 2021 to a lifetime of God's service in Jesus Name!



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Damascus, MD
January 2022 Discipleship Camp



OneLife Africa Mission Outreach

God Fulfills Promises.

In January 2022, OneLife Africa was joined by a team from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Damascus, Maryland for a mission outreach in Kenya. The time in Nairobi was spent visiting students families in Mathare slums. In Nakuru, the team facilitated a one week University student discipleship camp, while in Narok county, we were welcomed by community elders to a Maasai village. We visited, prayed and sang about Jesus our everlasting Hope. Looking at the events that surround us today, we can all agree that our hope is based on nothing less but Jesus Christ. In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, class of 2021 graduated from various Universities. Zakayo Omusugu (Zak) graduated from Kabarak University in December 2021. He was sponsored and mentored by OneLife Africa in secondary and throughout his university studies; one of the nine boys that attended the first LEAD Program in 2018; while attending classes at Kabarak University, Zak was actively involved in the operations of the OneLife Africa Student Campus.

Zak was featured in the Summer 2018 issue of the OneLife Africa Newsletter. In that article, Zak shared his personal story of how he joined OneLife Africa. As part of a large polygamous family with many children, he and his mother and siblings struggled to find food and security. Psalm 55:22, "Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." This scripture has been a source of great encouragement for Zak. With the support of OneLife Africa, Zak's aspiration to pursue an education has become a reality at a level few in his community have realized.

It is said that nothing happens in a vacuum and Zak's achievement is no different. Through the fog of distance and culture it can be hard for OneLife Africa supporters to see the far reaching effect of their generosity when combined with persistence and hard work on part of the student. We got but a glimpse of this from recent events subsequent to Zak's graduation. He shared that on his return home from Camp on January 15th there was a community wide celebration held in honor of his graduation with over 300 people in attendance.



Zakayo Omusugu
Kabarak University
Bachelor of Business Management and Information Technology

Another of Zak's favorite scripture quoted in the 2018 Newsletter speaks powerfully into these events; "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. (1 Peter 5:7)" Who could have imagined such an outpouring of honor! God's timing is always perfect and his blessings even more than we can imagine. Zak also stated in the 2018 article, "...God used OLA to make my way visible, straight and clear. I have discovered the dreams I have for my life and now, with God, I can make them a reality." Congratulations to Zak and all the recent graduates. All glory to God for His blessing in making their dreams a reality!



~Compiled by Mike Hoopes- Bridge Ministries Board Member



Margaret Zalo with her Mom
Strathmore University
Bachelor of Law

I can do All things Through Christ who strengthens me.

Phillipians 4:13

The last 10 years I have faced challenges and experienced God’s grace in more ways than I can count. I successfully completed high school, law school, and am currently studying for Bar exams. It took faith, dedication, and encouragement from family and supporters who I may never meet in this life. For that I’m thankful.

Hope for the Unseen.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

I would like to thank the Almighty God for the gift of good health and life, enabling me to live to this date. Many have gone before me especially in the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and many other complications but the Lord has kept me safe.

As OneLife Africa mentee, my high school fees were taken care of from the time I joined 9th grade in February 2011 to the time I completed 12th grade in November 2014 at Kanga High School, Migori County. This enabled me to concentrate fully on my studies since there were no disruptions such as being sent home for lack of school fees and it also reduced the pressure of fees payment on my parents. At the end of the four years in high school, I passed the high stakes examinations, scoring A plain (82 points out of 84) which guaranteed me a place at the University of Nairobi to pursue Economics and Statistics.

During the quarterly school holiday camps, I was able to join fellow mentees and the One Life Africa team from the United States of America in a week long bible camps. There were many take aways from the camps, including renewal of faith, fellowship and sharing with peers on the different aspects of life.

I have received transformative education that emphasized critical thinking and character development, which is opening doors for professional progression. My 14-year-old thoughts about the future and the direction my life would take have unfolded a little different than I had imagined, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. God led me to the right people to help me navigate and achieve the unconventional objectives that led me to law school. I have my sights on pursuing a career in technology, Intellectual Property and their intersections with law. I’m currently working in a research capacity at an organization that is aligned with that goal. I am excitedly anxious to explore where this path will lead me. Reflecting back on the decade, I have grown as a person to be more self-aware and confident in my identity in Jesus Christ alone.

Experiences of the last decade and specific individuals have positively impacted my faith journey. I’m blessed to have been surrounded by a community that finds joy in the service of God. These influences have steered me in the right direction and allowed me to grow, reflect and claim faith for myself, not merely because of what others have told me. God has been faithful in the midst of challenges. I have found comfort in God, knowing that he has been, and will always be there for me.

As uncertain as the future may be, I am convinced that “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Phillipians 4:13. I’m grateful to all who have contributed to my success in life, education and discipleship. Thank you OneLife Africa family for walking alongside me and being part of my journey.

At the University of Nairobi, I joined University Bible Fellowship, where I continued to learn more about God’s word, the fellowship helped to further get me grounded. I graduated from the university with a Second Class Upper Division in Economics and Statistics and I am currently working as a Programs Officer at NIKO GREEN, a management and consulting firm.

I am deeply thankful to OneLife Africa for offering me the opportunity to be part of the Discipleship (LEAD program). Looking forward into the future, I hope to support the programs of OneLife Africa. Also, it is my desire to further my studies by pursuing a Masters in Public Policy. On matters of faith, I continue to trust upon the Lord to lead my path. I rely on Hebrews 11:1 to guide me daily.



Hillary Matano
University of Nairobi
Bachelor of Economics and statistics

Our History

Who would have ever believed that a simple dinner with a new friend would change so many lives! It happened in 2003 when Andrew Onguka a Kenyan exchange student at Westmont college in Santa Barbara, California visited Nevada for Thanksgiving weekend. It was Andrew's first time to see the beautiful Sierra Mountains and snow, this was the beginning of a new faith adventure.

At that first meeting we heard the story of Andrew's family, and ministry in Mathare slums an abandoned rock quarry 5 Miles from Nairobi City with a land mass of three-square miles and home to a growing population of over 600,000 people living in 10 by 10 feet makeshift structures. Poverty, disease and conflicts are an everyday reality. The most disheartening is watching children wander through the slum looking for food and occupation. Majority of teenagers join gangs, abuse drugs and engage in sexual immorality resulting in teenage pregnancies and violence. Despite the terrible conditions, we heard about God's protection, provision and support to Mathare residents through a group of dedicated believers who were offering much needed help and inspiring hope in Jesus Name.

The stories were so moving that those who heard felt the tug on their hearts. In January of 2006 a group of 4 men were sent from Nevada just to go and see for themselves the work the Lord was doing there and to pray if this might be something we could help with. No one would ever be the same again after that first visit to Kenya. The team visited Nairobi's Mathare slums, Nakuru and Kisumu counties.

Upon returning, Bridge Ministries was formalized with solidified mission and refined vision, the founding board members worked tirelessly to spread their infectious heart for Christ and Kenya with others. Over the years Bridge Ministries has provided the much needed help and hope to children in Kenya. With support and encouragement from Hilltop Community Church, Andrew graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological seminary, Married Stephanie Onguka who graduated from Georgetown Medical School. As members of Calvary Church, Andrew and Stephanie were commissioned sent in 2011 to Kenya to serve with SIM. Andrew and Stephanie co-founded OneLife Africa a Kenyan operational arm of Bridge Ministries. God continues to grow and expand this vision in ways that no one had ever envisioned, only Eternity will reveal the impact of obedience and sacrificial service. To God be the glory!



Thank you for partnering with us!

Please send tax-deductible donations to: Bridge Ministries,

Bridge Ministries is a US registered non-profit organization.

Bridge Ministries is our US arm and OneLife Africa is our Kenyan arm.

GIVE NOW

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