

Our Biggest Project Nearing Completion: JohJan LifeNets Academy in Kenya



JohJan LifeNets Academy is a private school run by John and Janet Otieno Owak in Migori, Kenya. We were impressed by their determination to make the school work. At LifeNets we decided to give this effort the financial boost it needed. The school is open to the public so that all who want a quality education can enroll their children there. Also, it helps some of the children from the poor families and some orphans as this was the main purpose it was started. The school provides a class in Christian Living, teaching important life values.

LifeNets has contributed \$149,000 towards the completion of the school. We had a few large contributors who greatly encouraged us to move forward with this project as well as an \$11,000 fundraiser by the Seattle Skyline Rotary Club in April 2010. You can read about that event on our website at <http://lifenets.org/psc/fr41710.htm>.

Janet Otieno writes:

"The School was started in January of 2008 after the chaos from the elections in our country. We did have many problems. Sometimes the parents and friends, who were helping us, did not have enough funds to pay their fees on time. We were just up and down till I regretted starting it, but my husband kept on supporting me. Telling me to remember that it was started to help those who can't help themselves. We were just praying and asking God to help us be strong, and find how we can accomplish what we started, as He was the one who started it through us."

When fully populated, the school will have 12 grades. At present it operates the first six grades.

We have been very excited to see the construction progress of the school in the past year and see it functional. We are always joyful to get photos and reports of the school. The school was registered with the government on April 11, 2011.

You can read the entire history of our working with JohJan LifeNets Academy on our website at www.lifenets.org/johjan.

You will find an excellent seven-minute video interviewing the Owak's and showing the operation of the school.

A very special thanks to all who contributed to this high value project that will make a big difference in the lives of the children who have the opportunity to attend there.

Helping With **DISASTER IN JAPAN**

The March 11th triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear contamination brought a lot of sympathy from LifeNets supporters. LifeNets policy regarding disaster help is that we will help as long we can become directly involved with beneficiaries. Through a friend ophthalmologist, Dr. Yumi Yamamoto, who is LifeNets representative in Japan, we were able to get aid directly to disaster victims through volunteers.

We worked through a group of volunteers called "Yukari" who organized themselves a few years ago for the specific purpose of helping disadvantaged people. They knew two visually handicapped people who had lost everything in the disaster.

One was Mr. Abe who along with his wife had lost his house and everything else. His daughter's family lost everything, too. Now he is living in his son's house. Another victim, Mrs. (See *Disaster in Japan* on page 2)



LifeNets electric fans arrive in the Fukushima area of Japan. It has been very hot and humid and people are afraid to run air conditioners for fear of nuclear contamination circulating into their homes.



Ukraine 2011

Vinogradov, Ukraine English Project in Third Year—Report by Heather

LifeNets

On July 3, 2011 I had the honor of beginning a journey that would soon change my heart and views in so many different ways. I am so thankful for the group of people that God put into my life to share this experience with me. My Uncle, Oleh Kubik; cousin, Natsha Kubik, and new friends Stephania Zajac and Gregory Zajac all were part of our group. After a few planes and trains from my hometown of Spokane, Washington, we had finally arrived in Ukraine! In the train station of Chop, we were warmly greeted by two Vasils and Mykhailo and after a really nice prayer by Vasil, all five Americans and the Ukrainian men squished into a van and set off to Vinogradov, Ukraine. I started to become overwhelmed by the language barrier and for the first time since I've known about this trip, I began to become nervous that the only Ukrainian word that I knew was Cavoon (meaning watermelon). Thankfully, I would soon learn that God is bigger than language barriers and that I do not have to use words and sentences with people to show them love.



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After a bumpy, hot car ride, we pulled up at gates with the Ten Commandments proudly above them and rode into what would soon become the place that taught me more than what we taught the children. Over the next two weeks,



our group taught English using a bit of a different approach. Our idea was to let the children experience as much English as possible and because their minds are so fresh and young, they would latch on to as much English as their brains would allow. We planned on "drowning" them in English and their only options would be to sink or swim, and a child's brain always finds a way to swim. Also, instead of just teaching English from a typical language lesson, we used many lessons straight from the Bible and taught them not only conversational words, but life lessons. Lessons like how to be a good friend, loving your neighbor, healthy living habits, and Noah's Ark are just a few examples of the approach we used to teach English words and sentences. We used lots of bright colored, fun posters with an abundance of words so the kids would have a visual to look at and we let them keep the posters. Along with the posters, we incorporated many exciting English games. The boys ranging from eight to twelve especially loved the games that involved running around and being boys, while learning English at the same time.

In the mornings we would bring the whole group (about 40 kids ranging in age from 7 to 18) together after breakfast to have a group lesson where the posters would come out. That first lesson would be followed by a fun song. Generally, we taught a new song a day, we used lots of fun hand motions and dancing while also teaching about Jesus Christ's love and praising God. The kids really enjoyed the songs and would continue singing them throughout the days. In the afternoon we would go along with the kids on their excursions, which was personally my favorite part. That's when we really built relationships with the kids and just loved them. I was amazed at how God did not let the language barrier hinder the forming of friendships between the children and me. I truly loved all of those kids, leaving them was incredibly hard.



I learned so much throughout this trip. God is not just the God of Spokane, Washington, or America; thousands of miles away people of a completely different culture are worshipping the same God I worship. They have nothing compared to us, yet are so grateful for all they have. I am so thankful for the whole experience in Ukraine, I pray for those kids every day. I got to come home to a safe, loving home in America, and many of those kids go home every night to alcoholic fathers, unsafe homes, cheating mothers, yet still have good attitudes everyday and look for any sort of hope. I know I have a much better understanding of a "child like faith."

DISASTER IN JAPAN

Hashimoto has been in a shelter for evacuees. She and her eight family members spent more than a month there. Now they have moved to an apartment that the city prepared. Though the city supplied the bare basics, it is not enough. They are lacking everyday things such as food, clothes, shoes, fans, kitchen goods.

LifeNets gave 100,000 yen (about \$1,250) for each of these two people on Wednesday, June 15th.



Mr. Abe and family expressing their appreciation to LifeNets

Yukari people organized everything and arranged a ceremony to invite these people with their families. At the ceremony they received our donation. Since March 11th we at LifeNets watch, remember, care deeply and pray for those in faraway Japan who have been suffered so much in these disasters.

Altogether, LifeNets has provided a total of \$11,100 in aid for the Japanese people who are victims of the terrible tragedy earlier this year. Read much more detailed information at www.lifenets.org/japan that relates more of the story.

We thank everyone who has helped LifeNets help the people in Japan.

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