

Project Education, Inc
Building Global Communities
One Child at a Time



Peter Siany
Math & Physics
2005 to present

I was born and raised by two parents, Mr. Lakio Okwiri and Mrs. Jennifer Okwiri. My parents never had enough money but they laid emphasis and priority on education and good moral values.

I grew up on the Western part of Kenya near the shores of Lake Victoria. The climate around the lake was quite conducive for farming, so my parents practiced subsistence farming at the same time reared a number of goats which could be sold when need for money arose.

My mother never went to school but it was shocking how much she laid a lot of emphasis on education, encouraging us to work hard with my two brothers and four sisters. My father reached standard seven and he could not proceed with education because he lost his two parents and there was no support on his way. Even though he seemed to have been a very bright man judging from the certificates he was awarded at the school.

I had a tough childhood when my father left for town to look for a job and we were left with my mother. She could not provide adequately for all of us. She had to do small time jobs – “kibarua” in other people’s farms so as to provide for the family. We rush home in the evening after school to go and assist with the work. Saturday, we had to go to church.

It was not easy but with all these challenges, the family remained together and we were very focused in school work. In 1992, I sat for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) and when the results were released, I was among the best in the province. I was invited to join Alliance High School which was the best national school in Kenya back then. It was a rare footing, but challenges were still awaiting. School fees were quite high and it was obvious my parents could not afford it. My father came back home on hearing the good news of how well I had performed. I admired my father’s character trait of being confident, never looking down upon himself even when situations were proving impossible. For the first time, I was bought for new school shoes not from shoe companies but designed by one of the area cobblers.

The journey to Nairobi began. We went to Kisumu by road which was about 76 km from home so as to travel by trail in the name of cutting cost. At Alliance High School, I was enrolled for government bursaries and old-boys kitty which was always set aside for needy and well performing students. This was made possible by Mr. Christopher Kamba who is now heading a world wide special school training world leaders in South Africa.

In 1996, I graduated and managed to pass well to join university. In 1998, I joined Egerton University, one of the public universities in Kenya. Early 2003, I graduated with a Bachelor of Education Science Degree (Maths and Physics). April 2003, I joined Strathmore University where I stayed up to early 2005 after having earned Higher Diploma in Business Computing. Still at Strathmore University, managed to attain certificates from MIT - in Entrepreneurship and Java Programming.

Teaching Career:

It's both a honor and privilege tremendously humbling to be at Clay International Secondary School. When I first met the PEI President, Dr. Debra, and the Co-founder Madam Jeana King, I shared the vision they had for the school and the people of Ngomano. The service has come with varied experiences from 2005 up to date. Serving the needy students and trying to transform the society has come with all kinds of challenges. Preparing the 21st century citizens, learning and teaching has not solely been based on giving instructions. As a facilitator, students have been empowered to take responsibility for their own learning.

The teaching style has been to inspire intellectualism, social and emotional growth. And by creating students self-awareness that can help them juggle the many components of today's classroom.

Accomplishment at the school:

The biggest accomplishment has been having the opportunity each day to witness the many small successes in my students. There is tremendous joy in this. Making a difference in a child's life is one of the best compliments I have ever had in my life.

Conclusion

We have to be true to the basic beliefs and goals which have never outlived their usefulness and importance. Before I came to Ngomano, I thought I had experienced one of the toughest life during my childhood, that notion disappeared the first day I got to know the background of the students who had been admitted at Clay International Secondary School. They had never known, never felt the love of a parent from a very tender age leave along the absence of basic human needs. A good number of them were orphaned. It requires commitment and effort of everybody, no one can be excused, everyone must do his/her part so

as to make a difference in a child's life.

May I say thanks and congratulations to Dr. Debra Akre, Madam Jeana King and the Clay Family plus all those donors for their support and service to these needy and deserving young Kenyans. You have all made a difference and created a new face in this part of Africa, specifically Kenya. I know what your support means, I know the cherished place you all hold in the heart of this institution, now extended to the community. So, I am asking for your continued support, I am asking for your hands, I am asking for your hearts.

May God bless Clay School, may God bless all those who have been involved in this noble project.

Thank you.