

ONE WORLD: ONE FACE



Did you know that we all live in different worlds; literally and figuratively? Literally, our world is divided into continents, countries, states, cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Figuratively, our world is based on everything around us: the houses we live in, the families we are born into, our friends or lack thereof, our luck, our health, and much much more. We all experience this world in so many different ways depending on our circumstances. I call it ONE WORLD: MANY FACES.

What's your face? What does your world really look like? Do you live in the First, Second, or Third world? Is your world Green, Yellow, or Red? If you had a choice, which world would you pick to live in?

Yes, we all live in many different worlds with different economies, different cultures and different faces. I feel fortunate to have experienced a plethora of worlds. I was born in Mombasa, a town in the coastal region of Kenya and now reside in the great state of California. According to the world map above, I made a great leap from the Red world into the Green world. I actually skipped one big world; the Yellow world also called the Second world. I didn't know the Green/First world existed the way it did. It is a world that many can only dream of. Some cannot even dream of it because they do not know such a world exists. It is beyond their imagination. This is the world I want to bring to everybody in so many different ways. We all need to live in the First world and be all Green. How will I do this? You may ask or wonder. I HAVE A GREAT PLAN.

My world was changed in February 2001. I had been dreaming of going to the United States since I was four years old. In 2001, this dream came true when my aunt extended an invitation for me to visit her. Everything I had read about finally came alive and the new world I found myself in was beyond my imagination. I liked my new world; the Green world, the First world. It unequivocally lived up to its name. It was so different from the world where I had come from; the Red world, the Third world. In my

former world, poverty may as well have been my last name. My parents were jobless, and having a meal once a day and going to school was a dream come true for many.

The Green/First world was a step away from heaven for me. I arrived in the land of cereal, burgers, burritos, and much much more. I was in a land where breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinners were readily available to virtually everyone. A land of “you choose what you want to eat and when to eat.” A land consisting of first class educational institutions all equipped with computers and libraries that one doesn’t see in some of the public universities in Kenya. I had never touched a computer before I moved and I had never seen so many books in one place before. I was in awe of everything I saw and experienced. I literally pinched myself when my aunt agreed to sponsor me to stay in this Green/First world. This was a dream come true!

Now that I am a senior in high school and preparing myself for college, there is no doubt that my world has been changed by living in the United States. It is from this rare opportunity that my dreams came true and my dream to change the world was given a chance.

As the assistant coordinator for the Martin Nandi Foundation, which helps orphans and disadvantaged children in the villages of Kenya to get an education, I want to make sure that every child has access to an education. Each year, we solicit funds from generous sponsors here in the United States and all the money collected goes towards helping orphans and disadvantaged children in the remote villages of Kenya. I have had the opportunity to talk to my classmates about our foundation and many of them are gladly participating by making a donation or by talking to others about our mission. Last year, we raised almost \$ 3,000 which gave hope to six orphans and disadvantaged children. These children were able to leave the village for the first time and go to boarding school where they are currently receiving a quality education. In return, we ask that they pass it forward by helping someone else after they graduate from college. In all, we have about 35 such students under our umbrella and we hope to sponsor even more students in the near future. My dream is to give these children the key to a successful life and this key is a quality education.

What motivates me to do this? Ok. Stop. Seriously. Pause for about 2 minutes after reading each line below. Really. Just stop. 2 minutes. Seriously. Think. And think again.

Have you thought about life without a mother or a father?

A life where you have no real home to go to?

You don’t know where your next meal is going to come from.

You have no one to go to for advice.

You have nowhere to turn to for anything.

You have never gone shopping for anything or with anyone.

You have never received a gift in your lifetime.

Have you thought about a life where your only hope rests in a long lost relative who went to work in the city before you were born and have never met him or her but you are told to keep waiting?

You look up the sky and when you see a plane flying over your house, you pray that someone will land near your house and keep your dream alive. You keep hoping and dreaming.

You walk bare feet because you cannot afford shoes.

You have no running water.

The closest thing you have seen close to electricity is lightening.

You have to sleep off all sickness because you have no access to a doctor or medical insurance.

You are all alone in the world even though there are a lot of people around you.

My dream is to give orphans and disadvantaged children the biggest gift they have ever received; the gift of a quality education. With this gift, they will be able to improve their lives and the lives others. They will also be able to improve the community in general. I will do this by helping to sponsor as many of these children as possible so they can attain that key to opening all doors. With this key, they will have endless possibilities. They will have the ability to find better jobs which will help them lead better lives. They will be able to build or buy a better house, raise a healthy family among other things, and can pass all their success forward to other orphans and disadvantaged children thus, forming a chain reaction. My dream is for these children to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers, paramedics, engineers and much much more. With their education, they can help bring electricity and running water to the village. They can even construct more modern, efficient hospitals and help build and maintain better schools. With such good educated people, my village will be a First world. My village will be Green. Everyone will be happy they live in such a wonderful place. I don't have to bring them to the Green world or the First world. I will bring the First world and the Green world to them with help from my peers and other generous sponsors. And because many people will be apart of this project, we will all be connected from the United States of America all the way to Kenya. We may even venture into the Yellow world. When one has a quality education, the sky is the limit. We will reach for the stars. We will reach out and touch lives to become ONE WORLD: ONE FACE.