



## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS!

A note from *Professor Johanna Kuyvenhoven*,  
Member of the Schools for Sierra Leone Board

OCTOBER 4, 2016

Ten years ago we began in a remote, northern town in Sierra Leone with a group of parents, community and church leaders desperate for quality education for their children. The ten prior years of senseless war convinced them that the next generations needed skills, knowledge and attitudes of service.



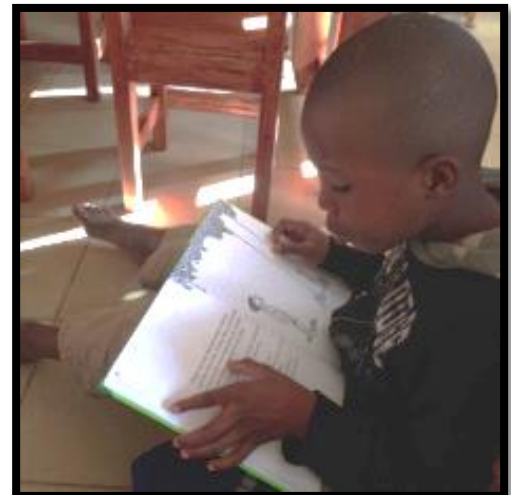
In September 2007 we enrolled the first students in school. Staying with a project through hard and lean times has been a challenge. Even so, we are astonished when we look back. We thank God – and we thank you. Most of all – our **students thank you!** The gratitude is deeply felt.

Over the last decade everyone involved has worked hard. A school board has been developed together with educational policies, curricular materials, and relationships for good school conduct. We brought in advisors, and had teacher training workshops and seminars.

The school has faced an Ebola epidemic, the death of one staff member and the disabling injury of another. Through it all we are grateful for your steady care and prayers and for the grace we have had to support parents in Sierra Leone with a quality school. We have seen the spirit of God at work in this venture from the outset.

### 10 Years! 10 Reasons for Giving Thanks:

- A maintained and regularly refurbished primary school building with 180 pupils.
- Solar power panels give light to studying students and staff at night and run computers and printers during the day. They power the pump for a latrine with running water. A Junior Secondary School building (7-9<sup>th</sup> grade) with 90 students.
- TWO secondary school buildings – beautifully designed. Housing about 120 high school students.
- A fully furnished science lab.
- A library full of African literature, information books and curricular related resources.
- Early grade reading materials.



- Sarah Kluitenberg’s contribution over the past three years of mentoring and assessing teacher performance will have an impact for a long time.
- Alusine Bundu a Sierra Leone native who completed his MA in Education at Calvin College is now principal of the Secondary School.
- Newly instituted practices for student and teacher assessment. Teachers are learning to use this for their better teaching.

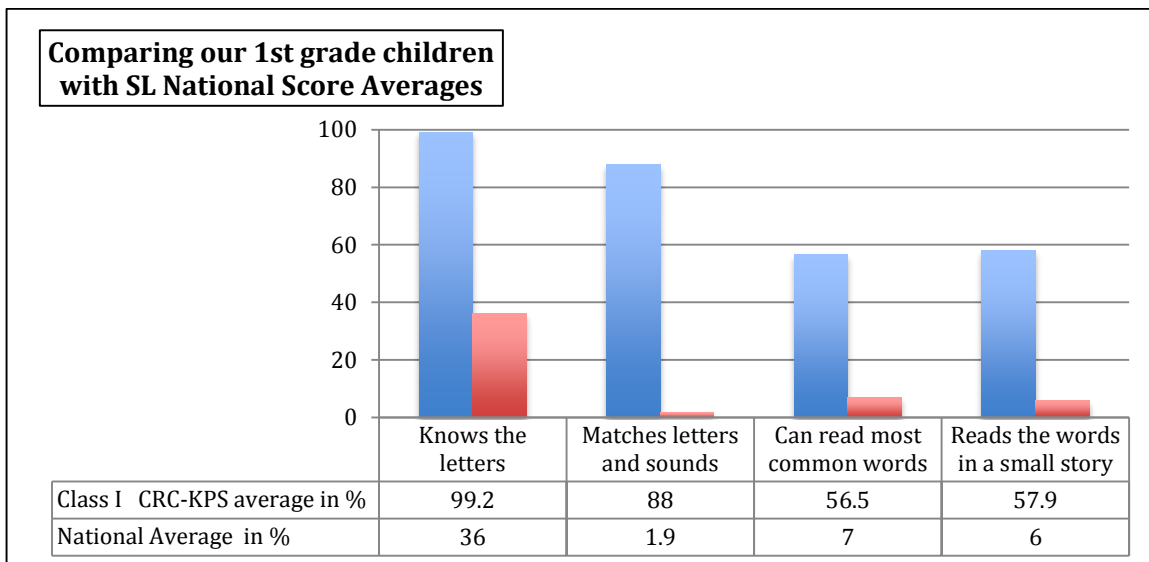


Best of all, we are seeing student success:

**All our students have passed the West African standardized test!!**

This is an astonishing fact. This agricultural, “remote” district is usually characterized by the lowest scores in the country. There are several Kabala District schools from which NO child passes the exam. Now, this small school in Kabala is preparing the children of farmers and traders, shopkeepers and home-makers to become leaders: locally, nationally and beyond.

At the foundation of education, we are making strong changes. Our first grade children score 3-8 times higher than their national peers on the key skills of early readers:



Stay with us! Support the parents and children in Sierra Leone who depend on us to make Christian education real and possible. We hope to develop a skilled and knowledgeable generation of servant leaders.

Grace and peace to you,

**John Loeks**

Schools for Sierra Leone  
 2121 Celebration Drive NE  
 Grand Rapids MI 49525  
 616-447-4220

[John@Loeks.com](mailto:John@Loeks.com)

See us on Facebook: Schools for Sierra Leone  
[www.schoolsforsierrealeone.com](http://www.schoolsforsierrealeone.com)

