



May 2013 Great news to report...

Written by **Professor Johanna Kuyvenhoven**
Schools for Sierra Leone Board Member
Contributions by Mary and Emily Loeks

TEACHER SENDING PROGRAM

Pictured below are three teachers who are preparing to go to Sierra Leone for this upcoming school year. They are currently working, raising money, and preparing to teach in Kabala in partnership with Kabala Christian School staff. We expect this initiative will offer a means for teachers from two countries to develop their teaching abilities and their understandings about how language and culture shape educational work. *Schools for Sierra Leone* is currently offering \$2,500 scholarships to cover travel, visas and health requirements for these successful applicants. The new teachers need to raise the necessary funds to support themselves further. We invite you to share in this adventure for educational partnership. Contributions for the Teacher Sending Program will be greatly appreciated!



Sarah Kluitenberg



"I first became interested in teaching in Kabala when I took a class with Professor Kuyvenhoven and she shared her passion for working with the people in Sierra Leone through education. This sparked an interest in me to learn more about this opportunity. I want to teach in Sierra Leone because I want to learn how the culture and resources of the country impact the pedagogical approaches that I have learned through my education at Calvin College. I am also looking forward to creating intimate relationships with the people of Sierra Leone. My main interests are spending time outside, biking, cooking, making crafts, camping, and hanging out with friends. I love food and I am beyond excited to learn about food in Sierra Leone!"

Nicole Perregaux (Nikki)



"I love Africa. I love how each country has its own wonderful culture and experiences. Ever since I went to Uganda, I have always wanted to go back to Africa to teach and learn of new cultures and lifestyles. Teaching is one of my passions, and it would be an honor to come and share my gifts, while I live and interact in the Sierra Leone culture. I enjoy being active, being outside, being around children, following Christ and I enjoy trying new foods. Teaching in Sierra Leone will allow me to fulfill one of my life long dreams, allow me to learn and grow in education, and allow me to be a part of a beautiful country."

Krissy Bucholtz

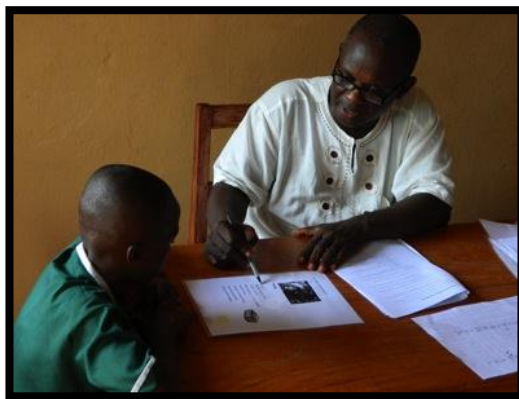


"Sierra Leone has been intertwined with my heart and life ever since I volunteered with the CRC Primary school in 2008 as a high school student. I came back to Canada passionate about becoming a teacher in order to help improve the lives of young Sierra Leoneans through education. I spend 4-5 months every year volunteering in Sierra Leone. In 2010, I founded a non-profit organization that provides empowerment programs for youth, offering them opportunities to achieve university education. Now my dream of teaching literature and language arts in Sierra Leone has finally come true! Over the next year, I hope to learn more about the needs and struggles of students in Sierra Leone so I can be better equipped to forward development alongside local teachers. You can also meet Krissy, the director of "The People's Foundation for Sierra Leone" at: <http://www.tpfsi.org>

CHILD IN NEED SCHOOLS

Ten years ago, Rev. Daniel Pratt began to build a school in Makeni, Sierra Leone, with great faith and compassion. Since then he also built a small church; an adult literacy center and two rural schools with an agricultural component. He is a father, pastor and teacher. He offers that commitment in the midst of material poverty with faith in "daily bread." He simply does what he can and "hopes for tomorrow."

In spare, but very tidy rooms, over 100 children sit joyfully pressed together to learn. It was the only early grade classroom that I visited while working with UNICEF in the summer of 2011, where children could identify all the letters of the alphabet and could join them with word-sounds.



Such passion and compassion is a rare quality. Schools for Sierra Leone has given the "Child in Need Schools," Makeni, a one time gift to build two classrooms; supply all children with a notebook, language arts text, and pencils in the new year. Additionally, the money will supply their teachers with such resources as chart paper, tape and markers.

Before the money arrived, Rev. Pratt gathered the community to get them started on making mud bricks. They will also send for help from the rural areas for the wood supports. They are thrilled with hope for the new school year.



SCHOOL SUPPLY BAGS FOR KABALA

During their July "Kids' Week" at Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, MI, children will be helping to prepare school supply bags for the school children in the Kabala school as well as for children in the surrounding schools. They will be decorating cloth bags to send to the children, and they will be bringing in offerings which will be used to purchase (in Sierra Leone) pencils, a sharpener, an eraser, a notebook and an alphabet book. It is our hope that this can be one of the ways we can "be an instrument of change" beyond the walls of one small school.

We are sending this with "Books for Africa" who will include this with their shipment in August. Do you know a church or school group who might like to do something similar? Let us know, and we will send you the information.

Johanna Kuyvenhoven

For further information contact:

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

John@Loeks.com

See us on Facebook: Schools for Sierra Leone

www.schoolsforsierreleone.com

*Celebration Education Fund (dba Schools for Sierra Leone)
is an IRC 501(c)(3) organization.*

