



## November 2013 Great news to report...

### **SCHOOLS FOR SIERRA LEONE EXTENDS A HELPING HAND TO "CHILD IN NEED SCHOOL"**

Pastor Daniel Pratt is a man with a BIG VISION--surprisingly so, given the few resources he has had at his disposal. Today a small church, a school, an adult literacy center and other educational efforts are the fruit of some of his dreams.

Fearing for the well-being of his neighborhood's children, as well as for his country then ravaged by civil war, he began a school for these children who had none. He called it "Child in Need School."

It began as a stick structure with slim benches, to which three mud brick classrooms were added for use by the older children. That was the extent of the school's facility—until this year!



*Old school before improvement*

**Schools for Sierra Leone** provided funds to repair the existing mud cement structure, paint all the rooms and build three more classrooms so that each grade will have its own room. In the midst of the whirlwind of facility preparation for the school year 2013 – 14, Daniel managed to carefully steward the funds received from *Schools for Sierra Leone* so that books for all the children could be purchased. In addition he was able to purchase a new pump for the school well, replacing the open pit. This means the 330 school children have clean water to drink as well as a clean classroom in which to learn.



*Daniel Pratt (on right) and George Hope in front of improved school*



Daniel Pratt has conducted workshops with Professor Jo Kuyvenhoven and other competent Sierra Leonean educators to help teachers teach reading more effectively. These workshops have been fruitful: His school has a 94% pass rate on the National Primary Exit Exam.



Johanna Kuyvenhoven with a student

**SCHOOLS FOR SIERRA LEONE PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING FUNDS FOR THE “TEACHER SENDING PROGRAM”**

The Teacher Sending Program is under the administration of Professor Johanna Kuyvenhoven. Experienced teachers from the United States and Canada are sent for a semester or year to work alongside their Sierra Leonean colleagues.

**Sarah Kluitenberg** is teaching third grade at the Kabala Christian School. Her emphasis is on teaching reading and writing, but other subjects are tucked in to her school days as well. In addition, she will conduct four workshops during the school year for area teachers interested in learning new methods.

If Sarah were teaching in North America, her third grade class would likely have about 25 students in it. Her class this year has many more. She would have access to many paper and technological resources. The teachers have a chalkboard for their use, as do most of the students. Whiteboards? Computers? Simple equipment for science lessons? Those are still in the future!



Krissi Bucholtz and students

**Krissi Bucholtz** is teaching the Junior Secondary Students. They are finding out that it is not school as they have known it. This teacher does not rely on copy work. She has brought drama and storytelling in the literature classes and has instituted a practice that feels new and thrilling to the students. They regularly write in their journals, and as they express themselves they discover a teacher who reads and responds to them with interest.

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