

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN KABALA, SIERRA LEONE

October 27, 2010

100% OF CLASS SIX STUDENTS PASS PRIMARY SCHOOL EXAM

100% of Kabala Christian School's 29 Class VI students passed the National Standardized Primary School Exams. It was considered national news by the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Network! This extraordinary accomplishment is due to the love and careful nurture from headmaster James T. Koroma and his staff, as well as to our emphasis on reading skills. Our teachers understand that the children must grow their abilities to decode print, develop vocabulary and practice reading and writing daily. Dr. Johanna Kuyvenhoven believes that "these two factors have led to the uncommon success of the students and teachers."

The sixth grade students are not the only ones doing well. All of the students are outscoring their peers in other nearby schools by 3 to 9 times. Beyond test scores, the goal is to develop young Christian leader-servants in this highly under-served part of a country that has suffered much during the ten-year war. Teachers—students—parents—church—and community have all worked together to create a climate of hope rooted in faith.

BOUMA COMPANY PREPARES PLANS FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Grand Rapids based Bouma Company has produced and donated architectural plans for the new Junior Secondary School addition.

Rev. John Phiri delivered the plans to a Sierra Leonean construction company, and we anticipate that construction can begin in November.

Land has been acquired and is ready for construction to take place.

ENROLLMENT REACHES 215

There is considerable excitement about the potential of this facility, as the seventh graders are presently packed into the existing primary school building, awaiting the construction of the Junior Secondary School. There are now 103 boys and 112 girls enrolled.

SECONDARY TEACHERS MARAH AND SESAY LAUNCH SEVENTH GRADE CLASS AND KERAH JOINS PRIMARY SCHOOL FACULTY

In August, 2010, the Board of Kabala Christian School interviewed and heard the faith testimonies of Mr. Mohammed Mark Marah and Mr. Yaya Sesay. These two young men took positions on the faculty staff in September, 2010, and are responsible for teaching the new class of seventh graders. They bring expertise in the areas of math, science and language arts. Miss Merah Kerah will teach in the primary school.



BEING “SALT” AND “LIGHT”

From the outset, it has been one of the goals of Dr. Johanna Kuyvenhoven, Associate Professor of Education at Calvin College, to reach out beyond this one school to impact and enrich the work of teachers in other area schools. Every summer she takes her “vacation” to return to Sierra Leone and work with educators of every level to develop more effective teaching methods and strategies for teaching reading in the primary schools. Her work with the school in Kabala has been recognized by UNICEF. That organization has funded both “Training of Trainers” Workshops in Sierra Leone which Dr. Jo has led, and her work to develop a National Team for the Teaching of Reading. With a local team, she wrote and re-wrote teacher training materials.



SCHOOLS FOR SIERRA LEONE RECEIVES 501(C)(3) STATUS.

The IRS quickly gave final approval of our 501(C)(3) application.

WHAT ABOUT THE GUEST HOUSE?

Some of you are aware of plans to build a Guest House that can serve visitors and generate some income which can help to support the school. Funding is still needed to begin this project. The Grand Rapids based architectural firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. has been researching appropriate housing designs for Sierra Leone and has developed preliminary drawings.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We do not yet have enough funds to complete the school and guest house. We also lack complete funding for this school year’s operating expenses.

Another \$45,000 is needed very soon. If you can help, now would be a great time to make a contribution.

Today we received news that the construction contractor reduced the school building costs by \$25,000 if we start in November.



To the 214 donors who have already contributed - thank you for your participation in bringing this vision to reality.

Schools for Sierra Leone

John Loeks, Emily Loeks, Johanna Kuyvenhoven and Mark Rizik

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