



May 2008

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Serve the Children News

Annual Spring Fundraiser

Tickets are selling fast. Do you have yours? Our Annual Spring Fundraiser is Saturday, May 31st at 5:00pm in the Rotunda on the University of Puget Sound campus in Tacoma. Purchase tickets at \$30 per person or \$150 for a table seating six. Respond to this email, reply to the mailed invitations, or call 253-851-1794.

Auction items include: a Maui condo for 1 week, Mt Adams guided climb for 2 people, Fly fishing trip on a local river for 2, Golf and lunch at the Fircrest Golf course for 3, three month membership at the YMCA, "Dinner by Doug" for 10 people, potting bench, Casting Crowns Puyallup Fair tickets, Family zoo membership, and more!



Kindergarten Students at AGC Sinkor School in Liberia

Support Serve the Children

- Come to the Annual Spring Fundraiser
- Sponsor a child, staff member, school . . .
- Join a mission team (a team to India is forming now)
- Start your online shopping at www.igive.com
- Begin your EBay sales with www.missionfish.org/ForSellers/forsellers.jsp
- Donate gently used items for our next container
- PRAY - Join us in praying for the health, safety, and growth of our children and staff in India and Liberia.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in India and Liberia!

▪ ***Dinner and auction!
Spend your
Economic Stimulus
Package check
here!***

***The Rotunda is
located in the Student
Union Building. Turn
West on 13th Street
from Alder Street.
Plenty of parking is
available.***

▪ ***Join us in praying
for . . . our children
and staff in India
and Liberia.***

Serve the Children

5800 Soundview Drive E-104

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

www.servethechildren.com

(253) 851-1794

Missions in Liberia Written by Sara Sandefur

In 2003 I embarked on my first journey to Liberia. It was my first trip overseas, my first mission trip, the first time I had been away from my young children. God had placed a calling on my heart to go, and nothing could change my mind. At the time, Liberia was heading toward the climax of a 14-year civil war. Soldiers were everywhere. Food was scarce. Security was non-existent.

In the midst of the chaos were classrooms at our schools. Children with hungry minds were soaking up information as though it could fill their empty bellies. It was easy to forget about the war when we were at the school. The children played, smiled, laughed and worked as though everything was just fine. It was a shelter from the storm closing in from all directions.

When rebel soldiers attacked the city, Doug and I were evacuated to the relative safety of a French warship. I returned home with a different view of the world. My faith in God had new meaning. The entire course of my life, and my family's life, would change. A year later, in more peaceful times, I returned with my husband and a team of short-term missionaries. Two years later we brought back our daughter Jumah from a children's home outside Monrovia. Three years later I went back to nursing school, so that I would have more useful skills to offer at home and abroad.

This year I'm honored to lead an amazing group of women as I return to Liberia. Shelley Rydman and Babs Heath will work with our staff and children, teaching them a narrative form of God's story to build their tools for sharing God's word in a war torn country. Heidi Otis, Anna Burrows, Erin & Stephanie Bream will be updating child sponsorship information and interviewing children who still need sponsors. Esther Heath, Wendy Bream, Joella Langford and I will work with the school nurse to provide training, network with local health organizations, and provide basic medical care to those who need it most.

For the ten of us, the journey has already started. It started the moment we trusted God's voice telling us to go. I am excited to see what God will accomplish while we are there. I am even more amazed to watch the ways God is working in each of us throughout this adventure and beyond.

"I will fulfill my vows to you, O God, and will offer a sacrifice of thanks for your help. For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping. So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light." Psalm 56:12-13 NLT.

▪ *"In the midst of the chaos were classrooms at our schools."*

▪ *"An amazing group of women . . . will work with our staff and children."*

▪ *"The journey has already started . . . watch the ways God is working in each of us . . ."*

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