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Serve the Children News

Making a Difference by Anna Burrows

Sitting on the back balcony of the All God's Children school in Monrovia, Liberia, I watched the struggle of daily life in a third-world country. I volunteered to make a difference in the lives of children who fight to overcome poverty, malnutrition and malaria to receive an education. In a country completely ravaged by fourteen years of civil war, I wondered if hope was really possible. I experienced the daily frustration of realizing that foreign aid creates dependency and encourages people to wait for others to solve their problems.

Each morning, the children's laughter drifting upward was my ray of light, waking me to a new day. As a natural problem solver, I was determined to know that we were making a difference for them. This trip convinced me that All God's Children Schools are making an impact not only on the children, but also on the teachers, the families, and the future of the country. The schools' director stated years ago that free education was the only way Liberia would overcome its past and begin a new future. I came to understand what he meant. I saw firsthand the need for the youth of Liberia to be educated and empowered to make a difference and realize their potential.

These schools must remain open! Funding teacher salaries keeps the schools operating. Without teachers, well...there would be no schools. And without schools, the students would be left to wander the streets or begin working for their families. Their great needs may seem distant and intangible, but they are real and can be met with the same amount of money that Americans spend on a dinner out or a trip to the movies. One of the biggest things that jolted me every day was realizing how God has blessed me with incredible wealth in comparison.

Although I have left Liberia, I am forever changed. I will never forget the thunderous sound of the crashing waves and the rain pounding on the tin roof. Or, the way a boy ran up to me at the 15 Gate school, latching on to my hand, barely saying a word, but looking at me with deep wonderment. Or, speaking with an older staff member and marveling at what he had overcome during the war, and how passionate he was about furthering his education. I deeply desire to continue to make a difference. My trip to Liberia has been the catalyst for my pursuit of a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a future in international development.

I would encourage everyone to pause and pray about how God can use your talents to make a difference. Would you like to serve on the 2009 Mission Team? Could you help with the Annual Spring Auction? Could you sponsor a teacher or a child? God can use you in ways you never imagined.

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Making a Difference for Junior

Junior attends our school at 15 Gate in Liberia. His parents work as farmers. Two weeks before the 2008 mission team arrived, he broke his leg while playing soccer at school. There are no medical facilities in this area. Though even if there were, his parents could not have afforded them anyway. They did not inform our nurse. He hobbled to school each day on a crutch.

The team, mostly medical professionals, noticed him immediately. They took him into Monrovia where his leg was re-broken and set properly using bamboo splints and cloth. He stayed with the team for a couple of days. His parents could not afford to stay home with him, so the team arranged and paid for someone to look after him until he could get around on his own.



Junior and Anna
Liberia 2008

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Annual Spring Fundraiser

Please pencil us in for Saturday May 30th for our Annual Spring Fundraiser. The auction and dinner will be held at the Rotunda on the University of Puget Sound campus (same place as last year).

We'd love for you to join us for a fun evening and help provide access to education and basic needs for children in India and West Africa. Tickets will be on sale this Spring.

Join us in Prayer

“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14 We pray for our staff and students in Liberia, India, and Indonesia, for their health, safety, and future. We pray for Kyle Bristow as he teaches English and serves our children at the Ankoor Children's Home in India. And, we thank God for the opportunities He gives us to make a difference in the lives of others.

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Sponsoring Teachers

The All God's Children School System has the highest pay for teachers in Liberia at \$80 a month. The teachers are grateful for a steady paycheck that allows them to house and feed their families. To cover all of our expenses in Liberia, and assure that our teachers are paid, we need to raise about \$9,000 a month.

Meet Annie Kennedy



Mrs. Annie Kennedy has seen Liberia in peace, in war, and in recovery. She knows that education is the key for her students and hopes that someday, they too can live in a peaceful Liberia.

She is thankful for her job. Her salary helps support her family of six, who live in three rooms of a mat hut. She loves her family, her work, and God. Teaching Kindergarten and 1st grade is no easy task. She carries textbooks up and down the stairs, everyday, from the library. She uses every resource she can find to help her students.

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Meet Rohit

Meet Rohit Pravin Gajbhiye. Rohit is 10 years old and calls Ankoor Children's Home in Lasina, India home during the school year since his village, Samdrapur, has no school. He loves Science and wants to be a doctor. His mother is a laborer and cares for him and his two brothers alone. She can not afford to send him to school. Rohit is waiting for a sponsor. Can you sponsor him?



“Rohit loves Science and wants to be a doctor.”