



Fifty5five Inc.

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916 351-5644

Winter 2013 Newsletter

Christmas Tea 2012

Once again there was a great turn out for the Christmas Tea on December 4 which this year was held at Dedderding Elementary School in Carmichael. Despite the torrential rain women, children



and even a few men came to enjoy an afternoon of fancy eating and wonderful music by the band 'Just Friends' while accomplishing a little pre Christmas shopping. The boutique was freshly stocked with items from Africa, India and Cambodia for some really unique gift giving.

Thanks to those who attended and shopped, funds were collected toward the upcoming trip to Kenya and Malawi in Africa (see 'Africa 2013' article). Financially it was our most successful tea yet! As airline prices rise, it's all the more important that we have great attendance at these events.



A huge thanks to each of you who prepared those tasty tid-bits and the amazing serving staff who took such great care of everyone!

All your efforts made the afternoon so delightful! And a special thanks to each and every one of you who came to share the season with us. It's always such an encouragement to those of us who travel, to see so much behind the scenes support!

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Trish Chancey issued a challenge to everyone at the Christmas tea to start saving the picture portion from the multitudes of little return address labels each of us receives in the mail. They are just the right size to use as stickers on the foam glasses we make at VBS. Glasses are the craft on Day 2 of VBS when we talk about sin because "You know, it's almost like God has special glasses... he sees right into our hearts!" So save those labels and there's a special prize for the person who brings the most to the Spring tea!



SPRING TEA 2013

If you've ever attended our teas, you know that they bring delight to those young and old. In addition to the yummy food, there is humor, fellowship, and great shopping! Please pray

about reserving a table and bringing your friends or family to share in this delightful afternoon on May 4 at First Covenant Church just off Zinfandel Drive

Email us at www.fifty5five.com for reservations. It's never too early!

Africa 2013

This Spring Fifty5five will be traveling to Africa once again to serve those in need of Children's Ministry training. The new twist is that a 3 person Training Team will be head out to Malawi on April 5 to work with the Malawi Montessori Project in **Ndirande, Malawi** (www.malawimontessoriproject.org). Their focus is to train and develop teachers! This is an amazing partnership opportunity as the mission of Fifty5five is to train teachers to present the love of Jesus Christ to children by providing the tools to create and conduct a thriving Children's Ministry. Keeping in mind the average life expectancy in Malawi is 36.5 years old, you can see it is important for the children to clearly hear, understand and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Next, the Training Team will fly to Nairobi, Kenya where they will be joined by the rest of our team for 2 weeks serving in Kisii along side Imani Agape Voice of Hope and the Baptist Convention of Kenya for a 1 week Teacher Training across multiple denominations. Bishop Liston is well connected in the Masai community as a previous missionary. (The Masai are a bit like our Amish, in that they hold to their age-old customs and dress).

The second week we will help those teachers put their new skills into play by hosting a Vacation Bible School for the children in that area.



As of this writing, our teams consist of Becky Jo Anderson, Kelsey Ziegler, Theresa Cane, Lavon Stewart, Jay Case and Linda Giroux, with several more interested and praying about joining us.

Please pray for our teams from April 5-27 and if the Lord directs your heart, you may donate any amount toward a traveler, or the trip as a whole.



Masai warriors have jumping contests to win the hands of their brides

All donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

Fifty5five, Inc
13389 Folsom Blvd #300-141
Folsom, CA 95630

You also may wish to call 916 351-5644 and set up a meeting with Linda to find out other ways you might help support the work of **Fifty5five**

Encouraging Kenyan Feedback

The following letter was received from one of the Pastors attending our Teacher Training this last year in Kenya. It is always an encouragement to know the impact our work has on those who are deeply committed to serving the Lord with excellence. You, as our faithful supporters, play a vital role in this ministry and have made this possible.

Praise the Lord sister Linda.

This is Haron Awura from Kenya. We first met at Brother Joshuas place in Kisumu Ahero at Ombeyi area last year in April. To me it is a greatest opportunity that God has given me at least to thank you for being able to plan for another trip back to Kenya, only to reach the hearts of his people through your inspiring Bible teachings. Let me put this clear to you sister Linda plus your team. This teachings is not only for the young ones, but for all groups of age. Like myself; To be open, the teachings, illustrations and the materials you gave my Sunday school teacher has really helped the growth of our church that I am leading here in Kenya, and I personally learned a lot that I had not come across in the ministry work.

My request is to ask you in the name of Jesus Christ to bring me some more teaching materials when you come, so that i can give them to all our Sunday school teachers. I have 27 Sunday school teachers from 27 branches of our church.

Thank you very much for your sacrifice and concern with Gods people. Say hi to all servants of God that you are teaming up with.

Kind regards
Haron Awura, Kenya

FUN FACTS

Attendance at VBS averages from 250—700 students, ages 1-22 years of age. We call the older ones the 'mustache crowd'.

Suitcases last through about 8 trips before the wheels fall off. They have been used, abused, squashed, drug through mud, and even flown off car tops at full speed.

A fifty5five team of 8 persons consumes about 7 gallons of water per day: 1 day of water \$20, 14 days of water \$280.

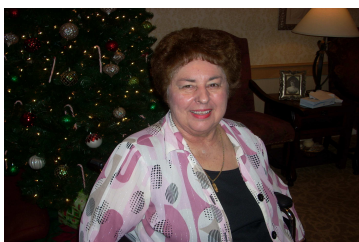
We gift as many supplies to the teachers as possible at a cost of from \$100 - \$150 per trip. We leave behind storytelling aprons, pens, paper for note taking, puppets, musical instruments, activities supplies, balls, puzzles, and Bibles.

PRAYER CLOSET

- Pastor Liston in Kisii, Kenya as he plans for our arrival to do training and a VBS in April
- Pastor Joshua of Kisumu as he ministers to the widows of Kenya and Rwanda
- Shannon Werner, our fellow traveler to Kenya who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Shane Tiller and Jerry Coronado as they embark on a trip to Africa on a goat and bicycle ministry
- Linda Newton and Ginny Millhone, behind the scenes supporters, as they both recover from hip surgeries (man, we're wearing people out!)

VOLUNTEER'S CORNER

Mary Vorbeck, confined to a wheelchair, participates in our missions by cutting out crafts for about 500 kids



We at Fifty5five continue to be grateful for the love and encouragement of all our supporters. As God continues to bless you, you always continue to bless us.

As you may know, each of our travelers must pay his or her own way on these journeys of ours and airline fees have skyrocketed. If the Lord lays it on your heart, you may make donations to any traveler who has not met their financial obligations for a given trip. As you do this, you, as well as the traveler, have participated in training teachers to spread the Gospel to children around the world. God bless you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|----------------|-----------------|
| February 15 | Bunko Party!! |
| April 5-27 | Malawi & Kenya |
| May 4 | Spring Tea |
| June 27-July 4 | Fireworks booth |
| August | Enchilada Feed |
| December 7 | Christmas Tea |

Interested in an event?
Want to help out during an event? Email & we'll get you plugged in!
linda@fifty5five.com

INDIA 2012

Excerpt from Trip Journal
By Susan Cort Johnson
Fifty5five Team Member India 2012

It was after 10 a.m. and the children in Hosamane, a small village in India, had not arrived at the church for Vacation Bible School. The Hindu priest had indicated the night before that he had spoken to the headmaster at the school and she would adjourn class early so the children might attend.

As Angel Warrior, director of The Seed Group, walked to the school to discuss the issue she asked everyone conducting the outreach that day to form a large circle and pray. Workers included team members from Fifty5five, The Seed Group and Karnataka Evangelistic Association Ullalu Children's Center. For about a half hour prayers went up in English and in Tamil. Just as the team closed their time of prayer, chatter of children could be heard outside the door. Team members smiled at one another knowing that God had given victory.

As the children sat down on straw mats spread on the concrete floor, Linda Giroux and Becky Jo Anderson began the song "My God is so Big" which they had taught the day before.

At 1 p.m. the children left the church with a cross necklace decorated with colored beads that explain Christ's salvation. Teams that visited families in the village after lunch to invite women to an event learned the impact of the VBS was far reaching. One father said his daughter had told him about Christ using the necklace. Another said he would attend church on Sunday. A wordless affirmation was the foam, spiral creation craft that hung in a doorway.

Susan was a 'first timer' on this trip and left Sacramento not knowing what to expect but offering a willing heart to be used by the Lord in whatever way needed. This journey was different than our usual trips, as we traveled to different cities for training and VBS almost every day instead of concentrating in one area. We also were partnering with another group for the first time, which gave us exposure to different states in India. We pray there will be much fruit coming from this recent adventure.

Check out the remainder of Susan's great journal on our web site www.fifty5five.com

Pray ● Give ● Go