



Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort

Dear Friends of SAVE,

The SAVE Board wishes to live out Biblical truths by supporting our partner ministries in Sierra Leone in their preaching of the Gospel and responding to some very dire situations arising from time to time. The aims of the Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort, SAVE, as a Christian non-profit, 501(c)3 organization is to be driven by the unconditional agape love of Christ and so participate in God's mission of transforming nations through a holistic demonstration of the powerful Gospel of Jesus. This new year 2020 will start off with members of SAVE going to Sierra Leone to support a rural medical mission team that has been brought together by one of our partner ministries in the capital Freetown. This newsletter also brings news of our engagement with mental health and PTSD initiatives, construction of a new Bible College Library and provision of transportation (motorcycles) for Christian workers. On behalf of all the Board members I thank you for your prayers and support.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Brian H. Bowen, Chairman



A comprehensive team meeting the medical needs of the people of Sierra Leone

Medical Update: In recent years, the emphasis on Medical missions has been to focus on longer term, more sustainable impact on the people served, while integrating with our church planting initiatives. The Medical Mission Committee of SAVE is moving to modernize our approach to reflect these changes. This is being done by rigorous engagement of Sierra Leone Christian practitioners, encouraging them to see the mission field, and seek opportunities to make an impact with them. We have identified the following opportunity to do so:

In line with SAVE's operating model, we're working with one of our in-country partners, Bethel World Outreach, as a part of their church planting efforts. A medical team of about a dozen Sierra Leone healthcare professionals has been formed at Bethel and planning is underway for a mission in the first week of March 2020. We will visit at Magbety Town, Koinadugu District, in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone. It has 500 inhabitants, one nearby health center, and a newly planted church with a Bethel Pastor. This mission will be used to understand the healthcare needs within the community, and identify how the team might continue to provide some support of that need over the long-term as well. As part of this mission, SAVE board members have been meeting with Bethel personnel over the last few months, and will meet for final planning preparations upon arrival in Freetown, and will accompany the medical team and use the opportunity to visit with our in-country partners, furthering some initiatives that have been born out of our previous activity {e.g. working with students at Njala University on food preservation methods.}

We covet your prayers and financial support as the Lord leads and allows. We praise the Lord for partners taking the lead on significant projects to advance the health, welfare and salvation of the people of Sierra Leone.

PTSD Counseling Training Sessions in Sierra Leone

Over the past three decades, Sierra Leone has been impacted by a series of traumatic events. The most significant were a 10-year civil war in the 90's that claimed 50,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of people, an Ebola epidemic from 2014 to 2017 that left 4000 dead, and a mudslide natural disaster in 2017, with a death toll of over 1000, and over 3000 left homeless.



Mudslide Freetown, Sierra Leone - August 14, 2017

In the aftermath of these tragic events, and in response to the resulting emotional trauma experienced by thousands of victims in Sierra Leone, SAVE became concerned about the likely development of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) within the population; it also turned out to be a significant issue for the counselors. We engaged a Sierra Leone partner, DISCET, who took up the challenge and proposed a national conference with a train the trainer approach, aimed at counselors, in a bid to strengthen their resilience. They did this in collaboration with the Mental Health Coalition, SL, and an initial workshop was organized and run by from June 5-7, 2019 in Freetown. The workshop was planned to accommodate 100 attendees but due to the high demand, 135 participants were enrolled while many others had to be turned away. Counselors dealt with issues such as anger management, addiction, stress, depression, relationship and career issues.



PTSD Conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone | June 5-7, 2019

A second phase of the workshop was held from November 13-16, 2019 to accommodate those who were turned away, and to expand the program. This second conference resulted in the formation of the Professional Counseling Association of Sierra Leone. This umbrella body will respond robustly and rapidly in times of disaster thereby bringing healing to people. The total cost for both conferences was \$4,500, which was provided by SAVE with help from supporting churches.

Please be in prayer for the people of Sierra Leone, especially for the thousands of households affected by these disasters, and the organizations that minister to them. If you are so led, please support these ministries by your financial contributions to SAVE. Your prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated as we praise the Lord together for what He has already done and continues to accomplish in Sierra Leone.

Funding, Participating, CONNECTING (Christian Motorcycle Assn)

As you may recall from our last Newsletter and our description of the nature of our work with our indigenous Christian partner organizations, SAVE generally desires to come alongside these ministries and provide assistance in the form of funding, participating, and connecting. Funding is a straightforward need and an important element of what SAVE does. Participating includes our Board Members and others caring about advancing the Gospel in Western Africa to the point of traveling to Sierra Leone (or Gambia – see SOW article) to assist the work of our partners.



Motorbikes used for evangelism

But the final element of our approach to partnership – CONNECTING - can take many forms, ranging from linking agricultural ministries like Shepherd's Cross with Njala University (and rural villages) to bringing indigenous leaders to participate in extensive Bible-based, hands-on agricultural training through "Farming God's Way". We have also connected Feed My Starving Children to the needs of Sierra Leone, as they provided 84,000 pounds of fortified rice that was distributed through our networks of pastors to those directly suffering from the ravages of the Ebola Epidemic in 2016 and 2017. Another of our connecting ministries over the past five years is Missionary Ventures International, an outreach of the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA). Through a variety of fund-raising outreaches throughout each year, they collect many thousands of dollars for motorcycles used for Gospel purposes.

The Lord connected us to CMA in 2015 through the efforts of SAVE Board Member Chris Follman. Since 2015 SAVE has filed applications with CMA to provide motorbikes for our partner ministries. In that year four motorbikes were provided to our partner SLEFES for their traveling secretaries to cover more ground more quickly in developing discipleship programs at the university level throughout the country.

In 2017, after travel was again allowed after the victorious battle against Ebola, CMA provided two more motorbikes for our partner, Scripture Union, for their traveling secretaries in reaching more primary and secondary schools throughout the country. Then last year in 2019, CMA went above and beyond in providing funds for ELEVEN motorbikes: four for Bethel World Outreach for their church planting, another five for Scripture Union, and two for our partners in The Gambia. We are overwhelmed by the ministry of CMA, and their commitment to our partners for the growth of the Gospel in West Africa. And we applaud the ceaseless efforts by Chris Follman advocating for our partners through CMA.

So when you support and pray for SAVE's work in Sierra Leone and The Gambia, you not only participate in funding these worthwhile ministries, and in providing opportunities to travel there to support Gospel activities there, you give us opportunity to connect more and more hearts and funds dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ through US partners like Shepherd's Cross, Feed My Starving Children, Farming God's Way, and especially the Christian Motorcycle Association – which has now funded well over \$20,000 to spread the Word in West Africa. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness through all these servants!

All donations should be sent to the Treasurer or you may contribute on line at www.SaveSierraLeone.org

SAVE, Inc.
c/o Larry Moran, Treasurer
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Reminder: SAVE board members are willing to come to your church or Bible study group and personally share what God is doing, how you can pray specifically or how you can partner with Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort.

S.A.V.E., Inc. is a 501 (c) 3, tax-exempt, non-profit organization

Servants of the Word (SOW) is an evangelical Christian organization working in The Gambia to promote the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, by training and discipling gospel workers who are native to Western Africa. The SOW vision is to multiply leaders and growing churches by raising effective gospel workers through one-on-one disciple making and training in expository preaching at the grassroots.

In 2012, Steven Musa-Kormayea in partnership with a number of other ministers started the SOW. Steven came to the Gambia in 1995 from Sierra Leone to pioneer the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES). Until this year, SOW met in evenings and weekends in the FES compound in a suburb of Banjul, Gambia. The entire curriculum took three years of part time work to complete.

This summer, the SOW Bible College has transitioned from the FES facility to a residential training center at Tubakuta, Gambia, with dormitory accommodation to enable students from further afield to benefit from the teaching and training. The classroom building, phase one of the dormitories and staff mud huts are just in the process of being completed. This new facility allows for year round residential learning with full time students. Despite having our moments of struggling with this transition phase our overall feeling as we look back is that there is so much to give thanks for from these last few months. SOW now has eight students, including our first female student. The students have moved into the dormitory block and are delighted with their bunk beds, fans and a bit of personal space!

SOW is really seeing the benefit of residential learning - the students are learning so much from each other. Previously, at the part time course, students wouldn't have much knowledge of each other's devotional habits or behavior outside of their time together in class. However, now they are living together, their habits are plain for each other to see. As the campus construction continues, SOW will be able to accommodate more students. To assist in the construction of the SOW library, SAVE has recently been gifted funds to purchase all of the materials. A building trip to complete this project is currently scheduled for 2020.



Ebola has ravaged Sierra Leone with over 4,000 deaths in the region and 12,000 Orphaned Children



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