



S.A.V.E.

Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort



David Musa
SAVE Executive Director

April 2008
Newsletter

S.A.V.E. Mission

With the help of God, to voluntarily make ourselves available as instruments of agape love to the people of Sierra Leone, maintaining a healthy balance between social action and evangelism; a combination of relief and relationships.

www.savesierraleone.com

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SAVE Board, March 2008, W. Lafayette.

[School Dedication](#) [& SAVE Overview](#)

January 22nd, 2008 saw a very moving and inspiring ceremony in which the Freetown Bethel Primary School building was dedicated to the Lord. It marked the successful completion of SAVE's first major project costing \$48,700.

Two SAVE Board members, Dr David Musa and Mrs. Rosetta Cherif, witnessed this memorable occasion full of praise to God, in the company of the students, teachers, SAVE partnering ministries and other dignitaries. School supplies, donated by SAVE, were distributed to

students as part of the ceremony. Many thanks from all the young students and community leaders to all SAVE friends who donated making such a wonderful occasion possible.

The trip to Sierra Leone by the SAVE Board members included an up-country journey to the "Adopt A Village" project at Kenema Village, about 100 miles north east of the capital Freetown. Hearty and encouraging meetings also took place with the four main SAVE partnering ministries (EFSL, SLEFES, SUSL, DISCET) as well as other church, missionary, and NGO groups.

The purpose of these meetings was to help the SAVE Board as we consider the direction for potentially new projects. There is still need for the Bethel School to have a water supply. We are also hoping to make operating improvements to the village clinic at Kenema. Building a simple church structure for the village might take place after further consultation with village leaders. SAVE has been supporting one young pastor for the village. We are considering supporting a feasibility study to assess the potential of a site outside of Freetown for the creation of a Christian Conference, Camping and Training Center? Peace pervades the country but there is so much poverty, ignorance and disease. So much needs to be done. Where should SAVE be serving? Please keep reading.

In the last SAVE Newsletter there was background information about one of SAVE's four partnering Bible based ministries, the Scripture Union

of Sierra Leone (SUSL). We now provide background to another SAVE partnering ministry the Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students (SLEFES).



Students at Bethel School prepare to give their contribution at the January 22 dedication ceremony

[SLEFES & SAVE](#) [Partnering Ministries](#)

The SLEFES is part of the Africa region of Inter Varsity. Each year it makes impact on the lives of hundreds of college students in Sierra Leone. SAVE's Drs Radcliffe Jones and David Musa were active members of SLEFES when attending the University of Sierra Leone. Brother David was the first full-time SLEFES staff worker for 1981-83. The current SLEFES General Secretary (CEO) is Mr. Francis Williams who has faithfully served the fellowship full-time for the past 15 years.

SAVE annually provides \$1200 per year to each of the partnering ministries to help pay the salaries of national staff.

Background of SLEFES

SLEFES was borne out of the vision of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES, Inter Varsity). This parent body was founded in 1947 with the goal of reaching the universities of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ten countries (Australia, Canada, China, France, Great Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and USA) originally came together to form IFES. They decided to send technical missionaries to other countries to serve in their diverse professions while witnessing to the gospel.



SLEFES General Secretary (CEO) Francis Williams with his wife Fera and children Dalton, Ina & Augustine

In Africa, the Pan African Fellowship of Evangelical Students (PAFES) was the main link with IFES. An employed staff from this international office was responsible for coordinating the work among the 50 nations in Africa. As universities expanded in West Africa each country decided to form its own national Inter Varsity movement. In Sierra Leone the students from Fourah Bay College, Njala University College, Milton Margai Teachers College and the Sierra Leone Bible College came together in October 1982 to form SLEFES. The ministry has grown from four campus groups to thirty-four. SLEFES exists to evangelize students through preaching, providing sound biblical instruction, discipling, and giving good life style examples to follow. SLEFES encourages students to think in terms of being missionaries for life through their various chosen professions. Since SLEFES is not a

church it ensures that each student is accountable to a local church congregation.

SLEFES General Activities

Some of the ways that SLEFES serves the students of Sierra Leone are through national conferences and leadership training workshops. It brings a sizeable representation from the many national groups for training, fellowship, interaction, relaxation and sharpening of their vision for Christian living. SLEFES helps students to solve their problems through counseling, teaching, and giving sound scriptural expositions and so also assist them to grow in the Lord. Through memorable annual conferences many have found Christ and others have grown to love Jesus so whole heartedly. SLEFES achieves so much by making their staff available to students in the Freetown metropolitan area and also their staff who live in the three regions of the country (north, east, south).

SLEFES Special Outreach

There are very special activities such as Operation Faith in Action, which involves short term missions to remote areas of the country. Students preach the gospel and provide practical helps to the rural community. In the past SLEFES has helped with cleaning, road construction, painting, teaching school children on career choices, hygiene issues and educational needs. Another mission activity is Kingdom Service in which students are encouraged to use their profession and get employment in remote areas. During the discharge of their duty their lifestyle and witnessing to Christ go hand in hand to promote the gospel. This Kingdom Service lasts for two years immediately after college graduation.

SLEFES Prayer Requests

(1) In the early 1980s, Brother David Musa served SLEFES full time all by himself. Today the fellowship has nine full-time staff serving in

Freetown and up county. Their ministry and physical needs still depend so much upon the Lord for provision. Can you pray for them and see how the Lord might be speaking to you to help this outreach to Sierra Leone's young future leaders?

(2) In 2008 SLEFES is planning to hold its conferences on a piece of land jointly owned with Scripture Union at Makomba in the more remote outskirts of Freetown. Students will camp at this site which currently has no facilities at all. This is a challenge that SLEFES wants to undertake in order to start to develop the site which is only a large rice growing field at present.

(3) After serving SLEFES for 15 years, Brother Francis Williams now wants to study on an intensive 12 month masters program in missions in the United Kingdom. While Redcliffe College has offered Francis a scholarship he is still in need of financial support. Can you help him to raise funds for this sabbatical?



The completed Freetown Bethel School in January 2008

2008 Trip to Sierra Leone

The January/February trip to Sierra Leone provided the Board members with many delicious meals during times of wonderful fellowship among the various Christian fellowships! The main purpose however was to provide the SAVE team with an updated assessment of the present situation. Transportation throughout the visit was provided by DISCET taking the team to a number of sites including an amputee camp, hospital facilities, the Evangelical College of Theology, two orphanages, and

Freetown Christian radio ministries. The needs in the country are so great. Where should SAVE be trying to help next?



Manufacturing artificial limbs in Sierra Leone but a more holistic approach is needed

Amputee Camp

An afternoon was spent at the Grafton Amputee Camp, near Freetown. From interviews with amputees it was realized that the approach to their problems needed to be more holistic, not just the provision of a prosthesis. They also need training and skills to earn a living to be able to get on with their lives. Abandoning their artificial limbs many amputees preferred street begging instead of sitting at the camp doing nothing. Without any water supply at the camp amputees fetch their water from a stream nearly half a mile away. The situation was a grim reminder of the effects of the tragic 10 year civil war, which came to an end in 2002.

Hospital Facilities

Sister Rosetta, a nurse by profession, was invited by SLEFES to share with Christian students at the Medical College of Sierra Leone. Both Rosetta and David also visited the Mercy Ships Hospital near Waterloo, a few miles away from Freetown. This hospital was established to serve polio victims and some amputees (staffed mostly by Sierra Leoneans). A brief tour of the United Methodist Church (UMC) Hospital at Kissy (a Freetown suburb) revealed the dire needs for medical care in the country. Even as a private mission hospital, the facilities were very meager.

Medical help is one area where SAVE wants to make more practical contributions.

Evangelical College of Theology (TECT)

David and Rosetta visited TECT (formally Jui Bible College) to see their teaching programs and latest facilities and staff. The enrollment at TECT has increased considerably over the last few years as a result of the introduction of the more diversified curriculum. There is a great need for books and journals for the college library.

Orphanages

Two Orphanages were visited, one at Waterloo and El Shaddai, Kamayama. In some situations there were signs of much love and care and in others many things were lacking. It is tragic to see how some orphans have to survive from day to day.

Christian Radio Ministry

The Lord provided the opportunity for Brother David to participate in a weekly radio ministry on one of the many local Christian stations as a member of a panel. Another radio ministry opportunity arose for David to share his understanding about the Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation.



Rev Dr Modupe Taylor-Pearce & his DISCET staff

Home Visitations

Without doubt the most wonderful aspect of the SAVE trip to Sierra Leone was in having the opportunity to meet old Christian friends, one-to-one meetings with church leaders, and renewing fellowship sharing all

that God has been doing in each others lives. There were times of encouragement and sharing in each others victories and struggles. Selfless hospitality in the brethren's homes and practical kindnesses with generosity and warmth were felt by the SAVE representatives.

SAVE's 2008/9 Vision

With hearts of praise for what God has made possible through SAVE having reached the completion of the first major project we are now seeking the Lord's direction for the future. At our March 2008 SAVE Board meeting there was a realization that we must keep a holistic approach, recognizing man's needs of body, mind and spirit. Future project areas considered were "Adopt A Village Phase 2", and a "Christian Conference Center".

Adopt A Village Phase 2

The Board is sensing that it is now time to give more attention and resources to the "Adopt A Village" project ensuring that the holistic approach is used. This means supporting the clinic and school as well as the church. There is much needing to be done. By God's grace we hope to see improvements at the village level. Can SAVE start to consider helping other villages in years to come once we have done all we can at our first adopted village of Kenema? Praise God that the village church meetings continued even during the period when there was a change over of pastors and no pastor was in the village. The need to construct a simple church building, involving full participation of the villagers, might be the next initiative. Securing equipment and supplies however for the village clinic (a concrete block building already exists) are very much needed. Simple things such as a small generator to run a refrigerator and other basic equipment are needed. A nurse already visits the village but providing clinical equipment will

help Kenema Village and the several smaller villages in that vicinity. What also about the supply of a teacher and aids for the village school which already has a small substantial building but is totally empty? The SAVE Board is also concerned that with all projects there should be a clean water supply.

Conference Center

Two of SAVE's partnering ministries, Scripture Union of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students jointly own a 40 acre plot of land about 20 miles outside of Freetown at Makomba Village. There have been hopes and dreams for many years that this site might be developed into a Christian Conference, Camping, and Training Center. Both SUSL and SLEFES host many different training camps, adult conferences, and retreats each year and finding a suitable location to cater for Christian gatherings is always a struggle. These camps and meetings have been greatly used by the Lord to speak into lives and in the deepening of understanding of the scriptures. Is the time drawing near when this site might be developed? Should SAVE get involved in this? It is expected to involve significant fund raising.

At the March Board meeting it was suggested that we ask SUSL and SLEFES if we might help by

supporting a feasibility study to provide outline plans with careful documentation and a description of how the center should be structured and organized (staffing, programs, operations, maintenance, expenses).



Is a field of rice to be developed into a Christian Conference Center?

This project will have a wide impact and help so many Christian groups. First of all a thorough technical feasibility study needs to be undertaken and we will wait upon SUSL and SLEFES and the Lord to see how this might open up. Please keep praying with us. Thank you for being with us as we look to future service in Sierra Leone. *"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" Hebrews 12:1-2*

Keep In Touch with SAVE

We want to save funds and time by sending future SAVE Newsletters out by email. Can

you please send your email address to one of the email contacts listed below.

Many Thanks to Dr Radcliffe Jones

Over the past several years Dr Radcliffe Jones, as president of SAVE, has guided the affairs and decisions of the young SAVE organization, including launching and completing the building of the Freetown Bethel school, obtaining 501(C)3 status, and starting the "Adopt A Village" project. His wisdom and love for Sierra Leone have been great gifts making possible the establishing of SAVE Inc. At the last Board meeting he resigned as president, owing to health reasons, and until the next Annual Meeting Dr Brian Bowen will be Acting President. We all praise God for Radcliffe's faithful service and that he plans to continue to serve as a regular Board member.

SAVE Presentations Dr Musa

- † April 6: Maranatha Church, IL
- † April 27: Zionsville Fellowship, IN
- Dates to be confirmed for:*
- † Christ the Rock Church, WI
- † Grace Evangelical Church, IL
- † Highland Fellowship, IL
- † New Testament Church, WI
- † Montgomery Assembly, OH

FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACTS

SAVE newsletters are posted on the SAVE website.

Please be sure to check www.savesierraleone.com

- Please also be sure to supply us your e-mail address. We can then email you future newsletters.
- For more information please contact one of the following:

ILLINOIS

Mrs. Chris Follman

Ph: 847-669-0411

Em: chrisfollman@sbcglobal.net

INDIANA

Mr. Don Miller

Ph: 317-879-0245

Em: donmillr@yahoo.com

WISCONSIN

Dr David Musa

Ph: 414-331-3575

Em: nlmusa@aol.com

SUPPORTING SAVE & HELPING THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET & BECOME A FRIEND OF SAVE

Being a friend of SAVE means that you support the mission and goals of SAVE and wish to make a practical, prayerful contribution toward helping the people of Sierra Leone

Name (please print):

Address:

.....

Telephone: **E-mail:**

PLEASE NOTE that we need to **receive your email address** so that we can supply you with electronic versions of future newsletters and inform you of when new materials are posted on the SAVE website

Remember that **donations are tax deductible** as SAVE has 501(C)3 status

This newsletter and future newsletters will be posted on the SAVE website

I will pray regularly for Sierra Leone and the ministry of SAVE

I also wish to support SAVE with a donation on a regular basis:

- *Monthly \$.....*
- *Quarterly \$.....*
- *Annual \$.....*
- *I am enclosing \$..... as a one time donation*

Please return this sheet to:

**SAVE
P.O. Box 6402
Elgin, IL 60123**

Signature *Date:*

SAVE Partnering National Ministries :

- DISCET** *Diakonia Interdenominational Services for
Counselling, Evangelism & Teaching*
- EFSL** *Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone*
- SLEFES** *Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students*
- SUSL** *Scripture Union of Sierra Leone*

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