



Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort

Dear Friends of SAVE,

In the gospel according to St. Matthew, we are challenged by Jesus' words to his disciples: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 17: 24-25.

As we look at activities of the SAVE mission over the past year, we see this scripture come alive so much in the life of Pastor Frederick. He has been the pastor in our adopted village for the past three years. He and his wife and children have sacrificed so much for the name of Christ in that part of rural Africa. We praise God for being able to support him and for the role he is playing there in the village.



Pastor Frederick
Kenema Vagboi Village Pastor

SAVE's holistic village ministry has four focus areas: church growth, educational development, health care (including clean water), and agriculture. Over recent months, the main emphasis of SAVE's activity has been with its first medical mission trip to the village of Kenema Vagboi as well as the construction of an urgently needed parsonage for Pastor Frederick. The March medical mission saw 39 people committing their lives to Christ. Over 700 people, including those from 22 surrounding

smaller villages and hamlets were treated at mission health fair. Part of the preparation for the medical mission included SAVE's electrification project of the village clinic, including the purchase of a generator and refrigerator, and new clinic furnishings.

In coming months, the completion of the parsonage roof, the refurbishment of the clinic ceiling and latrines will be addressed. In the second half of 2011, we are planning to initiate our first agriculture project in the village. Working with local Christian consultants, we plan to purchase cassava processing equipment, enabling the villagers to raise an income to help support families, school, church and clinic.



Cassava is a staple food. It must be grated, dried, and packaged within 3 days to provide an income

SAVE has that unique characteristic of being a bridge between the American churches and national Bible based fellowships in Sierra Leone.

I want to heartily thank you all very much for your prayers and donations toward the ministry of SAVE. You will see from our Treasurer's Report that we have been abundantly blessed, yet the needs remain daunting. We look forward to your continued support in the year ahead.

We value your individual partnership as we each daily take up our cross to follow Christ. First and foremost, we ask you to pray that we are hearing the Lord's calling and faithfully following His direction for projects in Sierra Leone in the year ahead. If you wish more information regarding the topics in this newsletter, please email or call any SAVE board member.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Brian Bowen - *SAVE President*

The Vision, Mission, and Method of SAVE: A Gentle Reminder

by David Musa - SAVE Executive Director

“Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people” **Proverbs 14:34**

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchmen stand guard in vain” **Psalms 127:1**

One of God’s greatest blessings to humanity is the ability to forget. For example, the intensely consuming pain, plus a sense of utter loss, and overwhelming misery that engulfs us at the passing away of a loved one could easily send us to our graves, except for God’s gift of forgetfulness. Because humans have a natural tendency to forget, we all need constant reminders from time to time. The ministry of SAVE is no exception to this rule. As leaders and friends of SAVE we have to constantly remind ourselves of our *raison d’être*. In order to fulfill God’s mandate, the Vision, Mission, and Method of SAVE should always stay on the front burner of our thoughts. Here is a gentle friendly reminder:

The Vision of SAVE rests on God’s unchanging and unconditional love (Agape) for humanity. (John 3:16) All who associate with SAVE are called to selflessly demonstrate God’s agape love to the people of Sierra Leone. We are convinced that the only lasting solution to the myriad problems of Sierra Leone is the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ. The Word of God has the power to penetrate the deep recesses of the human heart and bring about total transformation. We envision the gospel infiltrating every facet of life in Sierra Leone, breaking the spiritual and physical bondages of ignorance, poverty, and disease. Without meaningful relationships with Jesus Christ, Sierra Leone will remain a hopeless case.



SAVE has formed Christian partnerships with the people of Sierra Leone.

Our Mission in Sierra Leone is to do whatever the Lord directs us to do in holistic service to His people. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we want to bring God’s hope into a humanly hopeless situation. Shine God’s light into the spiritual and physical darkness of the country. We want to encourage Sierra Leonean Christians to be the salt of their country, by becoming agents of healing, preservation, and Christ’s abundant life.

The Method or Strategy of SAVE is focus on people rather than programs. We come along side committed and dedicated Sierra Leonean Christians to equip, empower, and encourage them to be more effective in reaching their people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to minister holistically. Just as Jesus’ redemption covers every area of life, we pray for spiritual, physical, mental (Intellectual) and social liberation of Sierra Leoneans. SAVE enjoys the unique blessing of being a One Hundred Percent volunteer entity. Therefore, loving relationships among the leadership is one of our priorities. Thanks you for your support, encouragement, and share in making our vision, mission, and methods realities.

Sierra Leone



New Kenema Vagboi village well with pump

Sierra Leone is listed as the second poorest country in the World after the devastation of the ten year civil war. It has the highest infant mortality rate in the world where more than twenty-six percent (26%) of the children die before age six. Unsafe drinking water is responsible for thirty-seven percent of the deaths due to parasites and bacteria in the water. (World Vision, Aug. 2010; UNICEF; Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group) So before SAVE sent a medical team to Kenema Vagboi village, we had one new well dug and a second well was refurbished.

SAVE'S First Medical Mission

by Chris Follman, Participant and Board Member



USA Medical Team (L to R): Dr. Emeric Palmer, Dr. David Musa, Chris Follman, Sarah Brown, RN, and Fiona Strasser-King. Dr. W. Marcus-Jones, Freetown Host

The purpose of this medical trip was to screen and treat as many people as possible for the various local health problems, educate for disease prevention and to share Christ's message of salvation.

The SAVE medical mission trip to Sierra Leone was miraculous, enlightening, successful and rewarding, but at times, heart-breaking. God opened many doors and provided a way where there had been none. Two airlines waived fees for the extra boxes of medications and medical equipment that could have cost us six hundred dollars. None of our luggage or boxes of medications were lost during plane transfers or clearing customs.



Treatment at newly furnished clinic

The medical team had great accommodations in Freetown hosted by Dr. W. Marcus-Jones, a true man of God and one of the most senior attorneys in the country. He

graciously opened his home to enable the SAVE team to make final preparations before leaving for the village.

Our thanks to Matthew Brima, director of Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students, who provided a 4-wheel drive vehicle for us. Three pharmacist interns, three student nurses and other volunteers helped at the clinic in the village. These young volunteers were absolutely wonderful!!



They came by the 100's from 22 villages

We *underestimated* the number of villagers who would walk up to ten miles to be seen by the medical team. Approximately one thousand (1000) people came. We served 726 of them before we ran out of specific medications. We felt bad, but made arrangements to have them treated. Dr. Alikali, the District Medical Officer, was notified and given a list of medications that were left for the village nurse Ethel to dispense with his supervision.

The health problems that were obvious or discovered were: parasitic intestinal worms, malaria, hypertension, goiters (lack of iodine), hernias, a few high risk pregnancies, and serious dental needs.



Mobile Dental Clinic sent to Kenema Vagboi

Another unexpected blessing for the people of Kenema is that Dr. Kojo Carew, owner of Blue Shield Hospital in Freetown, sent his mobile dental clinic, a dental therapist and a nurse to serve the immediate needs of the villagers. Twelve extractions were done and infections treated.

A second 4-wheel drive vehicle for our transportation, was furnished by The Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone, directed by Jonathan Titus - Williams. There were twenty-three of us who went to Kenema village each day from our base camp in the city of BO, about 60 miles from the village. Pastor Edgar, Pastor Anthony (Presbyterian Church in Freetown), Pastor Frederick, (Kenema village Pastor) and Matthew Brima, provided gospel messages, songs and counseling while the medical staff screened and treated patients.

After clinic hours one night, the "Jesus" film was shown in their own language and thirty-nine (39) people committed their lives to Christ. Praise God. *His Word never returns void!!*



Women waiting for "Jesus" film to begin

Disease prevention and "one on one" evangelistic outreach will be continued by a group of twelve volunteer leaders from five different tribes and villages in the Kenema Vagboi area. They received 40 hours of specific training during our week there from the expertise of Pastor Solomon Van Kanei, a certified Community Health and Evangelism (CHE) leader from Freetown. The CHE volunteers are currently receiving the next forty hours of training. *Commitment to this program will help sustain what SAVE has initiated with the medical mission trip.*



Dr. David Musa and Dr. Emeric Palmer
Medical Mission Team Leaders

The Blessings kept coming! Dr. Emeric Palmer, our SAVE physician and Dr. David Musa, our executive director were invited to be interviewed on SLBC radio, sharing the reason for our presence in the country and the success of the trip. Dr. Palmer was also interviewed live on SLBC television. View this on www.savesierraleone.org.



Hungry children waiting for the food scraps

The *heart-breaker* of the trip was that there were so many poorly fed and severely undernourished children. They watched the team eat lunch through an open door. After we had finished eating, they literally dove into the box of discarded styrofoam plates and licked them clean. During the rest of our time there, we provided rice and stew for them.

Recommendations by Dr. Palmer and Dr. Musa for future medical mission trips:

More time needs to be allotted for future medical mission trips.

Too many people returned to their villages disappointed because they were not attended to.

Medications should be shipped ahead of time.

CHE training must be one of the main components of the mission trip.

More creative ways of evangelism and follow up are necessary.

Ministry to children should be intentionally planned into the program.

SAVE is planning another mission trip to Sierra Leone in 2012. A medical mission trip is being planned for 2013.

Treasurer's Report

by Larry Moran

We have heard it said that, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's resources." We pray that will always be true in the ministry of SAVE.

In 2010, we were blessed with total gifts of over \$47,000. This included a one-time gift received late in the year for funding capital needs on our various campaigns. We employed nearly \$21,000 of the donations during the year. That included nearly \$8,000 for village support, \$3,000 for in-country expense of Executive Committee members visiting Sierra Leone (all paid by donations from those members), and over \$9,000 in support of our partner ministries there. We spent just 2% of our revenue in administrative expenses such as printing and bank wire fees.

In the first six months of 2011, we collected over \$28,000 in revenue, including a new grant from an Illinois church of \$17,500 underwriting our medical mission and other village costs. We employed funds totaling \$34,000 during that period, with \$21,000 funding the medical mission trip, and \$12,000 used to continue our other village commitments. Again, less than 2% of our funds went toward administration.

Some of our upcoming projects we are planning include:

Repair bat infested ceilings in village clinic	\$1,000
Construct two sets of village latrines	7,000
Cassava processing equipment / facility	10,000
Other agricultural support	5,000
Annual support of partner ministries	10,000
Support of village school, including scholarships	7,000
Potential costs of planned projects	<u>\$40,000</u>

We continue to trust the Lord to bring generous supporters alongside for the funds to continue to turn our dreams for Sierra Leone into reality, and to reach the country for Christ!

Please consider a special contribution to be allocated towards child education. Pastor Frederick estimates that \$127.50 will cover all expenses for 1 student, for 1 year, including 2 uniforms and 1 meal. A classroom in Kenema Vagboi village currently stands empty with room for 25 students.

Current Board of Directors – 2011

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Kenema Vagboi School

The literacy rate in the rural areas of Sierra Leone dropped to five (5) percent since the beginning of the ten year Civil War. It has been nine years since the end of the war in that country and most of an entire generation in the rural areas has been without an education. Public schools are many miles apart and there is little or no transportation available in the villages. Thousands of children and young adults cannot read or write. How can they gain wisdom and knowledge from the Word of God, understand prescription labels, the laws of the land, vote, and emerge from poverty without an adequate education?

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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Thanks and God Bless!

S.A.V.E., Inc. is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt, non-profit organization. SAVE is listed in the Guide Star national registry for IRS approved non-profit organizations.

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.

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