



Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort

October 2016

After waiting two years for the deadly Ebola disease to be eradicated, SAVE was able to continue the "Adopt a Village" project in the Kenema Vagboi village area. The July 2016 agriculture trip focused on sustainability through the sharing of life skills with this farming community. SAVE employed a three-pronged approach: Animal Husbandry, Fiber Production and Food Preservation. The six member USA team included Executive Director, David Musa, Board Member, Chris Follman, Dr. Diane and Peter Dickinson of Shepherd's Cross Ranch (Claremore, OK), and Dick and Cathy Gurley, (business and technology instructors), Zionsville, IN.

Animal husbandry and healthcare for animals was the first focus. Dr. Diane Dickinson, DVM, showed villagers how to identify healthy animals and how to keep them healthy and reproducing well. Antibiotics, de-worming, birthing, flocking and herding principles were also taught. Peter Dickinson worked with the community to build a large covered sheep pen with a raised floor. The sheep were free range during the day and were penned at night for protection from predators. The discussions included the love and care that Christ has not only for animals, but for all of us humans of His creation.

The Dickinsons donated seven ewes and one young ram as a starting flock. Fifty-nine villagers participated in the classes of animal husbandry and fiber harvesting, spinning and weaving. Christian friends of SAVE, professor Daniel Moiforay, Njala University Agriculture department, and Rev. Musa Jambawai volunteered to be the link between the Dickinsons and the village community, to make vaccines available as needed, and serve as resource contacts.

The second focus was making full use of cotton, wool and banana fiber for spinning and weaving to make clothing. Harvesting, spinning and weaving banana fiber, cotton and wool were demonstrated. Participants were excited to have seen that banana fiber was actually more resilient and stronger than cotton. Any products from the village efforts could be sold at Shepherd's Cross ranch gift shop and 100% of the proceeds sent back to the respective producers.

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New Sheep Pen



Weaving Bannana Fibers

The third focus was “Old fashion” food preservation. The rainy season was chosen to teach these classes as farmers could not be in the fields, and fruit and vegetables often rot from the excessive heat and moisture this time of year. Food preservation skills were shared with twenty people. Canning in glass jars was a new concept to Sierra Leone. Food preparation, sterilization and safe handling were also demonstrated. Mostly pineapples were preserved as they were in season. To a lesser degree, preservation of coconuts was also demonstrated.



The last day in the village was a graduation celebration. We praised God for the skills acquired and for the many participants who finished the classes. We also thanked God for the men from our partner ministries who will be following up on a monthly basis. All participants, who finished the classes, received gifts.



The animal husbandry group received the seven ewes and the young ram as well as medical supplies to start a village flock of sheep.



The fiber production participants received carders, spinners and looms. Those participating in the food preservation class received stainless steel kettles, ladles and jars to continue their efforts.



The faithful village church ladies who cooked our lunch each day received one quillow sleeping pad per household. Everyone was so excited to have participated and then being sent off with a helpful gift.

Two other team members, Dick and Cathy Gurley from Zionsville Fellowship primarily participated in teaching Micro- Finance and Christian business principles, and set up a computer lab in Freetown working with Nelson Clemens. The need for record-keeping was an eye-opener for most Sierra Leoneans, since that was commonly seen as being stingy. Great dialog was initiated and godly principles were learned.



Post Ebola, Phase 3

Rice and Cooking Oil

Distribution of a 40' shipping container of fortified rice acquired by SAVE from Feed My Starving Children.

SAVE is now an official partner with FMSC where we can request rice as it is available from them and needed in Sierra Leone (probably once/year). The rice arrived during the rainy season. It was picked up at the quay, moved to a safe dry location, and then distributed to village churches where the identified post-Ebola families could pick it up, or it was transported by motorbikes to the very remote village households. This was a very challenging, costly and time consuming effort, but necessary because of the destitution of the individuals receiving the rice. Roads and bridges were washed out and travel was very dangerous. The rice and cooking oil were gratefully received. Our Project Manager in training, Andrew Bangura, reported this summary:

The main beneficiary groups were Ebola-affected households and Ebola orphans. The majority of these households are in rural communities and have children and youths who are orphaned by the disease. 90% of these households lost their breadwinner because of Ebola. A total of about 4,500 people in 361 households and 5 orphanages received food support. Each supply had cooking oil and it was to last families for 1 -2 months. Notwithstanding the difficulties of transporting the rice to rural communities because of the heavy rains, it was very timely as many poor families struggle to have daily meals during those times.



Post-Ebola Initiative Update

The post-Ebola initiative was planned in four phases. Phases I - III are now successfully completed beyond our imagination. In Phase I (Western area) and Phase II (Northern Province), over 380 households were

supplied with rice, cooking oil and other foodstuffs. In Phase III (Eastern Province) 361 households and 5 orphanages were provided with cooking oil purchased by SAVE, and rice from FMSC. SAVE paid for all shipping and distribution costs, and for the oil and onions through the generous contributions of so many churches and individuals.



But we have unfinished business: Phase IV in the Southern Province needs the food and the love of Christ extended to them. SAVE is almost out of funds, but with the gift of additional rice from FMSC and ongoing contributions from friends of SAVE we could complete the original planned initiative by God's grace.

The responses from those most needy in Sierra Leone have been fantastic. On the recent visit to Sierra Leone, Dr. David Musa and Matthew Brima (partner ministry pastor), did a follow-up trip to Kambia and Port Loko, where about 25 pastors had gathered for a post-Ebola initiative debriefing. It was amazing to hear them testify of the great visibility they now have in the communities and the urgent requests that are coming in for a Christian presence in the villages.

In fact, during Phase III the Chief and the entire community of Nyandehun (East) were so touched by Christian love demonstrated by the food distribution that they passionately appealed to SAVE to build a Church in their community. They willingly offered a piece of land for that purpose. SAVE will prayerfully consider the opportunity before us.

As SAVE and its partner ministries go into more locations where there is great physical and spiritual suffering, and educational needs, we have more opportunities to share the hope, peace, healing and joy of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this through SAVE, we only need Christian friends and family with "child-like faith" and compassion who have been called by God to know that nothing is impossible with Christ, our Creator!



Christian Motorcycle Association(CMA) donated 4 motorbikes through SAVE for our partner ministries to share food for the body and soul to remote locataions



Many more villages still needing the "Joy of Jesus" through spiritual, physical and educational help

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

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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.

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