



Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort



November 2018

FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years, SAVE, Inc. has found partnerships with indigenous (local) Christian ministries, individuals and organizations to be an effective way of advancing the Kingdom of God in Sierra Leone. This was clearly evident during the amazing execution of the SAVE post-ebola initiative through partners on the ground, when we could not even venture into the country. The effectiveness of ministry via partnerships was also confirmed by the compelling reports of SAVE partners who spearheaded holistic outreach in the name of Jesus to mudslide victims in Sierra Leone (August 2017). SAVE previously partnered with Bethel World Outreach Church in the construction of a primary school for one of their churches. In all the instances above, SAVE raised the necessary funds and the partners on the ground took oversight of project operations.

Even our recent activities in The Gambia, coming alongside alumni from the Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students at the Servants of the Word Ministries in The Gambia, is an example of using personnel and finances of the west to support the kingdom of Jesus Christ in Western Africa to support church planting and development there.

SAVE continues to see partnerships as one of the central strategies of ministry for our work in Western Africa. The following are thoughts on how such relationships work.

A. Nature of Relationship (What?)

The nature of the relationship is expected to be one of co-laborers for Jesus Christ in Sierra Leone (SL) and other parts of Africa, as the Lord leads. It does not intend to put either party in a position of subordination under or domination over the other. The duration of partnerships could be long-term or short-term, depending the nature of ministry in which collaboration is sought.

B. Partners in Ministry: (Who?)

SAVE will partner only with Christian organizations, churches, and individuals:

- With solid and unquestionable Biblical foundations – Belief in the transformative power of the good news (gospel) in the context of the entire Bible is a requirement of SAVE partners.
- Evangelistic and discipleship mindset – Has primary desire for evangelism and discipleship.
- Mission oriented – committed to advancing God's mission to reconcile His fallen creation to Himself. Emphasis on church planting and development, which should lead to transformation of individuals and societies.
- Consistent Basis of Faith – Partner's statement of faith (doctrine) should be entirely consistent with that of SAVE

C. Purpose of Relationship (Why?)

The purpose for this partnership is the evangelization of the people of SL and the planting of churches to facilitate discipleship, development and growth of the believers generally in the remote areas of the country. One typical example is Bethel World Outreach Church, which has developed a model for church planting that aligns well with the desires of SAVE, and Bethel has shown itself to be good stewards of the manifold grace of Christ in this work.

D. What? SAVE involvement in Partnership?

SAVE generally desires to come alongside these ministries and provide assistance in the form of funding, participating, and connecting. While Funding meets one of the greatest needs of our partners, it represents only a portion of our support. We believe in Participating, sending Board members and others to visit SL to be involved in medical missions, church planting work, leadership development, and discipleship and evangelistic training events.

ALL ABOUT SAVE



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We also highlight Connecting, in that we have developed relationships with others (generally in the US) who desire to minister their talents around the world for the sake of the name of Christ, with activities ranging from providing motorbikes to missionaries, developing horticulture or animal husbandry outreaches, or providing shoes or school supplies for village children.

E. SAVE's Expectations of Partners

- Faithfulness to evangelical and biblical tenets of belief.
- Adherence to the stated goals of the partnership.
- Accountability in terms of regular updates as to ministry progress.
- Commitment to the advancement of God's Kingdom through evangelism, discipleship, and mission.
- Transparency in ministry and relationships.
- Indigenous Leadership of ministries and projects, with local ministries and ministers to be in the forefront of any partnership initiatives approved. Direction, strategies, execution, and supervision of ministries are prerogatives of the local partners.

NEWS FROM EXISTING PARTNERS

1. The Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students (SLEFES) - William Yandi Conteh (General Secretary) writes: "SLEFES has received great strength, encouragement, and support from SAVE through the many years of our association". The number of Campus Fellowships increased to 30 in 2017 and 10 campuses are still in pioneering stages. With the generous sponsorship from SAVE, attendance at the National Disciple Conference almost doubled from 94 (2016) to 150 (2017). Student leadership development and building the capacity of our staff were top priorities in 2017. SLEFES currently has 12 staff, including volunteers and interns.

2. DISCET - Rev. Steven A. Mahoney was recently confirmed as the new DISCET Director. DISCET ministry in 2017 could be summarized as: "Restoring hope and leadership to people in dire need of both" In 2017, Sixty-Four (64) people went through the DISCET counseling program. Counselors dealt with issues such as anger management, addictions, stress, depression, relationships, and career issues. Over 300 mudslide survivors also received DISCET counseling. 19 professional counselors were trained in 2017. A five-day marriage restoration conference was a blessing to many attendees. "God used DISCET to restore broken homes and marriages on the brink of collapse", writes Rev. Mahoney. In collaboration with the Great Commission Movement "145 pastors and Church leaders were trained in effective evangelism and discipleship." With the help of SAVE, full scholarships were offered to participants.

3. The Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone (EFSL) - EFSL membership is growing numerically: In 2017 five (5) Churches/ ministries were accepted into fellowship. and ten awaiting interviews. Support and equipping of pastors was a significant parts of EFSL activities in 2017. Seminars and conferences for pastors, capacity building for member bodies, and relief to mudslide victims occupied much of EFSL time last year. The organization participated (as observers) in the national elections, education projects, community services, and IMPACT (HIV) prevention projects.

4. Scripture Union (Sierra Leone) - SU International celebrated 150th Anniversary in 2017. SU Sierra Leone had its 133rd. Praise the Lord! Secondary Schools ministry included visitations, lunch fellowships, weekly central meetings and leadership development. Bible reading promotions by staff and volunteers were part of the ministry to churches in all regions of the country in 2017. 3, 000 copies of Daily Guide and 500 copies of Daily Power were produced in 2017. Camp meetings were held in Bo, Makeni, Magburaka, and Grafton. A total of 220 youths attended and were "impacted by the word of God."

5. Bethel World Outreach - SAVE has recently agreed to come alongside Bethel World Outreach in their church planting efforts. With a total 71 churches, nationwide, Bethel has "Churches and schools in all the four regions of the country. We embarked on providing training for over twenty of our pastors in the rural areas. With the help of SAVE, full scholarships were offered to participants."

Conclusion

We at SAVE are incredibly blessed by our friends and partners on the ground in Sierra Leone and West Africa. Please be in prayer for them, and if you are so led, support their ministries through contributions to SAVE. We could do nothing without the blessings of God as provided through our supporters. Receive our thanks as we praise the Lord together for what He is accomplishing.



DISCET Directors

SLEFES Leadership



Yandi Conteh of SLEFES



Kpandei Tucker (R) of SU



Titus Williams (EFSL)



Gambian Theological Students studying on Computers

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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MINISTRY IN GAMBIA

Sometimes our partners in Sierra Leone have extended reach - which truth recently brought us to The Gambia to finish a three-year commitment to assist in pastor training there. The center of activity was Servants of the Word Bible College in The Gambia (SOW), started by SLEFES alum named Steven Musa-Kormayea, who first organized an IFES affiliate in Gambia, and then the Bible School. SAVE's Executive Director, David Musa, and Board Member Dick Gurley (and his wife Cathy) have been actively involved in supporting SOW's training of current pastors in three different trips.

While Gambia may be the smallest country in Africa, our relationships run deep, and the country is over 95% Muslim, and the Church there desperately needs support. On September 7th, 2018, 25 students graduated from the three-year pastors' study, representing sixteen different churches, from five West African nations and several different African Tribes. What a beautiful view of the Kingdom of God! These energetic and hardworking leaders are and will continue to play a significant role in turning these predominately Muslim areas to Christ.

The program courses included Bible hermeneutics, Christian leadership, God's grace, and Bible study tools; courses designed to assist the student-pastors to be more effective and true to God's word in their current ministries. More importantly, by working together during class the students worked out their own faith in a conservative and reformed theological framework, and we saw great growth in each of the students.

Next year, SOW will be transitioning from their current facility in the city to a more rural area to have a residential campus where students and faculty can study, work and live together. Construction on the new campus is progressing. During the last year, they procured ten acres to be developed for farm, nature and recreational uses - important skills required by the students to make a living as they spread God's word and plant new churches. Watch for ways to support this ongoing part of the work in the future.

As Dick Gurley stated upon his return, "The hardest thing about the graduation was that we recognized that we would not be in close contact with any of the students again. We praise God for their lives and their ministries." Indeed, SAVE praises God for your prayers and contributions of cash and computers to this work, and for His faithfulness in the ministry of SOW!

MEDICAL MISSION

Medical missions have been a part of our ministry in Sierra Leone for many years. We grew from a group of almost entirely SAVE personnel, to our latest version which included ALL indigenous medical professionals and pastors, lead by one of our partner groups. We are again planning a medical mission, this time in partnership with our new church planting partner, Bethel World Outreach (BWO). Our medical sub-committee of our Board is headed up by Dr. Emeric Palmer, and includes Dr. Radcliffe Jones, and pharmacist Paul Hoffmann, and Executive Director David Musa participates and assists with communications.

We hope to schedule the trip for next March with a team from the US of 5-7 people. Coordination is beginning now with BWO, Bishop Julius Laggah, and medical personnel from their congregations. The plan will be to support church planting efforts by traveling to a church-plant village with extended local presence, and with some basic health infrastructure, and activate medical personnel of various types from Freetown to go with us, and in fact to lead the effort, with SAVE personnel providing support.

We hope to have some SAVE personnel on the ground in Sierra Leone before the actual mission to participate in final preparations. There is also the potential for some partnership with a Freetown-based clinic associated with a leader of one of our partner ministries. That cooperative effort is also still in the planning phase, but shows promise of advancing the Gospel in both Freetown and in rural villages.

We so appreciate your prayers as our members participate in various planning meetings, and we consider the financial commitment necessary to accomplish our goals. Early estimates are that we will need \$12-15,000 depending on the amount of equipment, supplies and medicines we bring with us. If you are so led of the Lord, you may send any support you are able with "Medical Mission" on the memo line. Thanks as always for your generous support!

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**Bishop
Julius
Laggah of
BWO -
Church
Partners
with SAVE**



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