

DIAKONIA INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICES FOR COUNSELING, EVANGELISM AND TEACHING (DISCET)

22 Wellington Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel: +232 77 49 49 49 Email: discet.sierraleone@yahoo.com

The Director's Annual Report for 2018

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of DISCET, I want to thank God for his guide and direction over the ministry of DISCET. I thank and appreciate all our donors and supporters both national and international for their generous support to the fulfilment of the vision and mission of DISCET. I also congratulate the different committees of the Board in assisting the Director in providing leadership for the institution.

The beginning of 2018 was a little challenging time for DISCET because the organisation had lost three staff that needs urgent replacement. These Staff (the Administrator, the Assistant Finance Officer). These are crucial and important positions in the organisation whose absence cannot be easily ignored. Modalities were made to fill the positions including the position of the Director. The Board worked tirelessly and by the end of February, the positions of the Assistant Finance Officer and the Director were replaced. This replacement left a vacancy in the Field and Programmes Department because the former Field and Programme officer was appointed Director. The Field and Programmes position was also later filled before the middle of the year.

The Staff make up the work force at DISCET. With the encouragement of the Board Chair, the Staff are determined to do all their best to see DISCET promoted to the highest level in Counselling and Soul Winning in Sierra Leone and over.

1. DISCET CELEBRATES 20TH YEARS OF SERVICE TO SIERRA LEONE

The year 2018 marked the 20th celebration of DISCET'S Service to the nation of Sierra Leone and beyond. The celebration started the hoisting of DISCET flag in the morning of February 9th at the DISCET Secretariat and the recitation of DISCET reminiscences in the evening at the Scripture Union Hall on 72 Pademba Road, Freetown. These celebrations were attended by Friends of DISCET, Board Members and well-wishers. The programmes were colourful that reminded us of how DISCET started.



The DISCET reminiscences was succeeded by the DISCET 20th Thanksgiving Service which took place on the 14th March 2018 at the Regent Road Baptist Church, Regent Road. This service was attended by distinguished personalities from all walks of life. The programme was celebrated on the theme; "Go". Matthew 28:19.

The DISCET twentieth celebrations started in February and climaxed on the 6th December 2018 in a Praise and Prayer night. During this praise and prayer night, members of the DISCET House of Elders were inducted into office. Those inducted both in person and absential are as follows: Mrs. Blanche Macauley, Justice Mrs. Jamesina King, Mr. Gerald Wilson, Mrs. Ayodele Gilpin-Jackson, Mrs. Olayinka Phillips, Mrs. Esme James, Rev. George Spilsbury-Williams, Rev. D. H.Caulker, Rev. Matthew Lanasana, Rev. Can. Emerson Thomas and Hon. Rev. Raymond DeSouza-George. The above mentioned persons will meet once in a year to discuss matters relating to the progress of DISCET.

2. DISCET and SLIDA (UK) RESTORES HOPE TO MUDSLIDE SURVIVORS

In early 2018, DISCET received six large parcels of used clothing from the Sierra Leone



Inter-Diocesan Association (SLIDA) of the Anglican Communion in the United Kingdom. These parcels were further re-parceled into forty-three sizeable parcels that were given to forty three victims of the Sierra Leone August 14th, 2017 Mudslide and flooding. These people whose hopes were shattered and devastated regained hope again by the distribution of the parcels. The beneficiaries thanked DISCET and SLIDA for the gesture and pleaded with them not to forget them.

3. DISCET, IN COLLABORATION WITH SAVE USA, DONATES DRY FOOD RATION TO SIXTY FAMILY HEADS OF MUDSLIDE SURVIVORS IN THE WESTERN AREA

DISCET in collaboration with SAVE USA donated dry food ration to sixty (60) family heads with a total of One Hundred and Seventy-four dependants to the tune of \$3,350 USD. The dry ration includes 60 bags of 25 kg rice, sixty gallons of pure cooking oil, thirty bags of onions,



and other assorted cooking condiments. Each family head was also given an envelope containing money to the amount of fifty thousand Leones as transport fare for the donated items to their homes. The donation was a big boost for the destitute survivors because it came at a time they were looking forward for help government or humanitarian organisations for the celebration of Sierra Leone's 58th independence. This fund was raised by SAVE USA in order to do a follow-up counselling of the survivors of the mudslide and flooding incident. Learning materials were also supplied to the school going children of the survivors.

4. DISCET PROMOTES HAPPY MARRIAGES IN MAKENI CITY IN NORTHERN SIERRA LEONE

The Field and Programmes department of DISCET held a four-day Marriage and Singles Conference in the Northern Regional City of Makeni from Tuesday 20th August to Friday 24th August 2019 on the theme "Building Strong Homes and Healthy Relationships". This conference attracted people from all walks of life in the region. An average of 150 people attended the conference. As the theme implies, the conference was indeed timely, as it helped to mend broken relationships and rebuild collapsing marriages. Here is the testimony of what the conference did to Sis. Mariama Sesay's almost shattered relationship; "I thank God for DISCET and this conference. I and my Fiancée' are almost apart for some time now. All efforts by elders in our churches have proven to be futile. Both of us accepted a breakup of the relationship. I came for this conference not knowing that my Fiancée also is coming. By the end of the conference, the point of our disagreement was resolved and we saw reason to drop our differences and move on with the relationship. I thank God for the lives of the organisers" The Makeni Marriage conference served as an entering point for DISCET into Makeni City and the norther region at large. God willing, we will start running the Professional Counselling School there early this year.

DISCET RESUMES BROADCAST OF THE DISCET FAMILY HOUR AGAIN IN BO

In September 2018, the Director and the Field Officer paid a courtesy call on Rev. Dr. Shodanke Johnson, General Overseer of the New Harvest Ministry and President of the Radio New Song Radio. This programme went off air three years ago due to lack of funding. We thank God for the life of Rev. S. B. Johnson who gave DISCET free airtime to broadcast the



DISCET Family Hour. This programme is aired from broadcast materials in Freetown. The Field and Programmes Officer goes up to Bo every last Friday. The DISCET Family Hour Radio Programme comes up every 9:00 am to 10:00 pm on Radio New Song, FM 95.7.

DISCET PROMOTES HAPPY MARRIAGES IN MILE 91

In October 2018, DISCET hosted a five-day Marriage and Singles conference in Mile 91 on the theme; “building happy marriages and strong relationships”. This conference was timely for the people of Mile 91, according to testimonies from participants and it took place from the 15th to 19th October 2018. An average number of 102 people attended the conference across religious and denominational lines.



The conference was organised at a time when the separation rate amongst married couples in the church in Mile 91 was alarming. The conference served as an eye opener to the virtues of happy marriages. Eight Muslim women attended the conference and later gave their lives to Christ.

Mile 91 is a strategic town known for its centrality in the nation of Sierra Leone. It is widely believed to have been located around the center of the nation. Because of this, the town has attracted many NGO activities in the area but yet remain to be one of the least developed. We had five facilitators for the conference; three from Freetown and two from amongst the leading Pastors in the town. Here is a testimony taken from a stake of testimonies: ***“I thank God for this conference. It has helped me and my family a lot. My wife and her step son were at loggerhead and not in speaking terms. I was caught in the middle and didn’t know what to do. I can’t prefer my wife to my son neither will I prefer my son to my wife. The whole issue was settled in during this conference and now there is peace between my son and his step mother (my wife)”***

DEVIL HOLE & ROKEL COMMUNITIES “ONE BODY EVANGELISM TRAINING SEMINAR”

A two-day preliminary trip was planned to organise the “One Body Evangelism” Training Seminar scheduled to commence in December last year. This is an Evangelism Training that simultaneously goes along with discipleship. The training is done in the morning and the practical of soul winning in the evening of the same day. After several consultations with the Pastors on the ground, we agreed to postpone the seminar to early February in 2019.

I thank God for all God has helped us to accomplish last year. We now look forward to 2019. We totally depend on Him (God) for everything. I want to also thank God for the lives of our donors and Friends in the United Kingdom (UK) and the USA for relentlessly supporting us to accomplish the dream and vision of DISCET.

Faithfully compiled by:

Rev. Steven A. Mahoney
Director, DISCET
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