



Diakonia Interdenominational Services for Counselling, Evangelism and Teaching (DISCET)

51 Berwick Street, Off Walker Lane, Freetown, Sierra Leone

DISCET NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2020

DISCET helps to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of post-war Sierra Leone society. It trains Counselors to help individuals deal with relationships, and trains church leaders to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the unsaved.

DISCET ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

The year 2020 was a very challenging one but we thank God for His love and care towards His work at DISCET. We are grateful for His support to the DISCET vision through our partners, friends and donors. On behalf of the Staff and Board Members of DISCET, we appreciate all your generous donations towards the fulfillment of the vision of DISCET. In the year 2020, though it was challenging for us at DISCET and the world over, God enabled us accomplished the following:

1. Staff Retreat



The year 2020, started with a staff retreat. This is where Staff Members take retrospect of the previous year, the progress made and its failures so that modalities can be put in place to correct the shortfalls in the subsequent year. In this year's retreat, emphasis was placed on broadening DISCET'S support base locally. This was to be done through visitation of old friends of DISCET and also recruiting new ones through our teaching programmes that was to be conducted across the country. Unfortunately, these ideas did not work due to the outbreak of the global pandemic, Corona Virus Disease commonly known as COVID-19. This outbreak brought several restrictions on gatherings and also discouraged visitations.

2. DISCET ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

DISCET celebrated 22 years of ministry to the people of Sierra Leone on Sunday 8th March 2020. The programme was sparsely attended by the braved because the country was under siege against COVID -19 pandemic as the neighboring countries of this country were all recording high rate of Corona Virus transmission.



The Ministry's direction for that year was "launch into the deep". This direction break of the COVID-19 Pademic. In his address, the keynote speaker urges DISCET leaders to think out of the box in order to take DISCET to an enviable height among its peers. The programme was attended by DISCET Board Members and friends of DISCET.

SAVE USA VISIT

A team of five persons led by Dr. David Musa and the SAVE Board Chairman, Dr. Brian Bowen from the United States of America visited the DISCET Secretariat in the morning hours of 27th February 2020. The team had a business meeting with the Director and Staff of DISCET. After some deliberations, the SAVE team assures DISCET of their support and commitment to the activities of DISCET. The team later left for the provinces for other assignments whilst Bro. Larry Moran, a member of the team stayed to witness the DISCET 22ND Annual Thanksgiving Service that took place on Sunday 8th March 2020.



DISCET COUNSELING PROGRAMMES

DISCET continued to hold its counseling programmes despite the COVID-19 pandemic. There were some restrictions on the one on one counseling in close proximity. However few people were counseled in close proximity during when the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. Some attempts were made to counsel online but this didn't yield much fruit because of internet connectivity problems. DISCET migrated from Afcom service because we could not afford to pay for connection fees.

Two Counseling Training Schools (Freetown and Waterloo) were serviced by our lecturers last year. In Freetown, twelve students graduated whilst fourteen graduated in Waterloo. Sadly, we were unable to recruit Students in Bo due to inter district lockdowns in the country.

During the year under review, several visits have been to Makeni, to start the Counseling School there. All spade works have been made to kick start the counseling in Makeni this year, God willing.

Several efforts were made to work with the psychosocial pillar of the National Covid-19 Response. We were asked to write a project proposal. After several meetings with the psychosocial pillar lead at the NaCOVERC secretariat, Hon Tejan Kella only to tell me that they (NaCOVERC) don't have money to foot the cost of transportation for Volunteer Counselors to respective quarantine homes across the Western Rural and Urban districts.

DISCET RADIO OUTREACHES



The DISCET Radio Outreaches comprises four radio stations across the country. Some are active and others are dormant due to lack of enough funds to fuel these programmes.

The DISCET Family Hour on "The Believers Broadcasting Network FM 92.9" and the DISCET Counseling Hour on "Skyy Radio, FM 106.8" are both stationed in Freetown and their airtimes comes up at 8:00 pm to 9 pm on Wednesdays and every other Tuesdays at 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm respectively. We also have the DISCET Family Hour in Bo on Radio New Song and Eastern Radio in Kono. The later are now dormant due to lack of funds to continue payment for airtimes.

The DISCET Family Hour and Counseling Hours have been on air all through in 2020. These preventive radio programmes have been a blessing to it audience especially during the lockdowns. People have testified of the goodness of God through the counsels received from these programmes. To God is the glory.

Field and Programme Department

Programmes in the field and programmes department were the most affected by the COVID-19 restrictions, since it forbade the gathering of people. Too little was done in this department in 2020 except the regular servicing of the DISCET Family Hour.

In-House Training for Staff

The recommendation of the external auditor was partially implemented last year. The recommendation was, "an in-house seminar should be conducted for DISCET Staff in order to familiarize them with the different activities of the organization". The recommendation was partially implemented until the outbreak of the Corona Virus in the country. Even though it was in-house seminar but administration was forced to put it on hold until situations normalizes.

DISCET moves to a new office space

The DISCET Secretariat that used to be on 22 Wellington Street is now moved to 51A Berwick Street, Brookfields in Freetown. The reason for this migration was that the rent was too high (Le 53,000,000/00) a year, as compared to 51A Berwick Street, the rent is Le 30,000,000/00 a year.