

SCRIPTURE UNION OF SIERRA LEONE

Prayer/



News Letter

Second Edition

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Preamble

Like most Scripture Union (SU) movements, Camping is a major ministry in SU Sierra Leone. We have been holding three camps of one in each region. Though we had plans for 3 camps but for very prudent reasons, management resolved to hold joint camp for both South East and Western regions from Sunday 21st to Friday 26th July 2019 at the Bo Government Secondary School in Bo city. The second camp was held from Sunday 4th to Friday 9th August 2019 at the Birch Memorial Secondary School in Makeni city for North Kono region. The theme was “The Power of a crucified life” (Gal. 2:20).

Bible Exposition/ Main Speakers

The Bible expositor for the Bo camp was Mr Albright M S Barrie. He is the Youth leader and Pastor in training at the Faith Healing Bible Church (an indigenous Pentecostal Church). He is also a Campus Staff of the Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students (SLEFES). He has been member of Scripture Union since his Secondary School days from 2002 to 2005.



Bro. Albright Barrie

In the Scripture Union School group at Government Model Secondary School in Freetown, he served on the student leadership at different times as Treasurer and Vice President. He is a graduate of the University of Sierra Leone. Apart from ministering on the theme of the program, Brother Albright also taught on topics like: Ethics and Etiquette, and Discipleship and Mentorship.

Rev Karim Kelvin Koroma was the main speaker for the North Kono Regional Camp held in Makeni. He is District Superintendent of Wesleyan Church Sierra Leone (WCSL) resident in Makeni. He was a member of SU during his school days at Birch Memorial Secondary School and had opportunity to attend SU camps.



Rev. Kelvin Karim Koroma

Rev Kelvin explained to campers the role SU played in discipling him during his time at school and counted the preaching assignment as an opportunity to give back to SU. “If I am who I am today, SU contributed a lot in my life”, he said.

Other Speakers and Topics

Our camps are wholistic in nature and therefore caters for other aspects of the lives of campers beyond the spiritual. Other topics addressed which are pertinent to current challenges facing youths in our country included:

- 1. Causes and effects of Teenage Pregnancy - Rev Willie Bickersteth (Bo), Mr. Aruna Sesay (Makeni)
- 2. Drug and Drug Abuse - Pastor Augustine Turay (Bo) Mr. Iheanacho (A Nigerian missionary)
- 3. Importance of Time Management – Rev Simeon Yonda (Bo) Rev Abraham Tucker(Makeni)
- 4. Ethics and Etiquette – Mr. Albright Barrie (Bo) Rev Daniel Mansaray (Makeni)
- 5. Discipleship and Mentorship – Mr. Albright Barrie (Bo) Mr. Kpandei Tucker (Makeni)

Testimonies below points to the fact that the topics were timely and addressed the very socio-moral needs of our young people.



Mr Aruna Sesay



Regional Chairman (South East region)



Pastor Augustine Turay



National Director

Testimonies

1. The Lord visited the camps for the salvation of souls. 45 campers received Christ as Lord and Saviour in Bo while 66 did so in Makeni. A total of 111 youths received the Lord; some of which were Muslims.

2. A muslim youth from Kono attended the camp upon the invitation of his friend. Though his entire family are muslims yet upon hearing the teachings, he decided to surrender his life to Christ. He was later counselled by Mrs Esther Tucker on how to relate with his family with regards his new found faith.

3. A Senior Secondary school boy had been in an immoral relationship with a girl (at Junior Secondary School). Who comes from a well-to- do family and has been extremely kind to him. As a result of engaging in sex and receives money from her, the boy had been deeply attached to her.



ND standing between new converts from the other faith

4. **Daniel J. Nimneh** - I appreciate God for giving me opportunity to attend this year’s camp. I am a member of the St. Edwards Scripture Union School Group but not committed to the Union’s activities. In fact, I seldom attend meetings as my Christian life is very weak. Due to my weak life, I involved myself into a lot of bad things like Pornography, gambling and I even become a drunk addicts; I was also involved into wild life which caused a serious setback to my academic work. When I heard about the camp, I had wanted to attend but could not afford the fees.

Fortunately for me, Aunty Erica with whom I am living on the same street told me to prepare for the camp as she will pay my fee. I thank God for being part of the Camp as my life has been affected by the teachings I heard. I also observed and studied a lot of new things which caused me to weigh the things I have been involved into and see the dangers that are attached to it.



Another set of campers surrender their lives to Jesus during altar call

I made a promise to the Lord on the second day of the camp during altar call that I will never go back to my old ways but ever continue to pursue those things that will bring glory to the name of the Lord. I am confident that from the Camp I have been crucified with Christ and it is He who is now controlling the affairs of my life.

5. **Eric Hertling** - I was not a lover of the Bible, in fact whenever I happen to be in a church serve, I always pretend to be reading the Bible. My greatest interest was in partying, going to the beach, hanging around with girlfriends and with friend and friend that have no interest in the things of God. I was seriously carried away by peer pressure which made do things that were against the word of God. When I heard the announcement in our church about the Scripture Union Camp, I made up my mind to attend as I was seriously touched by the theme. "Power of a Crucified life". During the camp, I rededicated my life to Christ and made up my mind to be serious with the things of God. I also asked God to give me grace not to go back to my old life. I could stay in the camp to the end, but the two days I sent in the camp made me learn a lot of things like Quiet Time, Team Work, Doing things on time and a lot more. During lunch break on the second day of the camp, I got an attack which me to loose consciousness, and I was told that I almost die but I was prayed for which made me regain my consciousness. I thank God for making me part of the vacation camp. I will always be part of the Scripture Union family. Am sure those things I have learnt in the camp will always be part of me and the impact I have gotten will be permanent.

6. **David Lincoln** - The theme of the camp made great impact on my life. I composed the theme song "The Power of a Crucified life". My life has been a disappointment to my mother; I was almost once given up by my mother due to the frustration and embracement my bad life was causing her. I could not help myself to live a life that will make my mother to be proud of my Christian life. When I started composing the theme song, it made a great impact on my life. Even before the camp I was already impacted. I told the Lord that if anybody should be touched by this song then it must be me first. I thank God for not only using me to compose the song but for the inner change that has taken place in my life. I also thank God for the person that came up with the theme, and all who have been affected by the theme will never remain the same but continue to live a crucified life.

7. **Tamba Paul Komba** Indeed, I know that the word of God is quick and powerful. I have been a Christian who has been struggling with anger. I have been doing a lot of foolish things due to the anger. I lost a very good opportunity due to the anger. During the Vacation Camp on the first day; I was seriously touched by the word of God which prompted me to respond to the Altar Call that day. After the prayer, I sense an inner peace which I have not experienced for long time. I started noticing that the things that have been causing me to be angry have started becoming nothing of importance to me anymore. I know that the word of God has done an healing in my life. It is my prayer that the sin of anger will never find a place in my life anymore. I pray that I will continue living a Crucified life.

8. **Sylvanus Smart** was a member of a violent clique group, a drug addict (addicted to tramadol), a drunkard and womanizer. He received Christ during the camp and is now a changed person in Kono. His life has been a surprise to many. He now ministers to others via social media.

9. **Mamie Kamara** went to the camp as a Muslim, received Christ and she is now a Christian who is even going to church. Her parents are praising God for what has happened in her life.

10. A girl whose father is an Islamic religious leader was permitted by her dad to attend. She gave her life to Christ during the camp and is now a changed person.

11. **Sheku Kamara and Saidu Ali** went to the camp as Muslims. They received Christ and are currently attending the Assembly of God and Fountain of Life Ministry respectively in Kono.

12. **Fanta Gborie** a member of New Bethel Church in Kono went for the camp. She made a decision to live for

Christ and claimed to be very much impacted from the teachings. With this transformation, when she returned to Kono she explained her experience to her Pastor. Her Pastor, Rev Idrissa Joshua Bangura asked that she should preached and teach on what she learnt on some topic like Teenage Pregnancy, The danger of harmful drugs etc. which led many lives to be transformed. By reason of the teachings done by this new convert, some youths of the Church have now committed themselves to attend camp 2020.

13. **Mamie Kamara's** mother decided to allow her to attend the camp because of my life testimony in Mamie's school where I serve as part-time teacher. It all happened as a result of the forgiving spirit I demonstrated towards her after wrongfully accused me of failing to account for her daughters school fees - which was proven to be false. Mamie received her salvation at the camp. (SU Area Coordinator).



Counseling Services

In partnership with DISCET, an organization notable for counseling, we held several one-on-one counseling sessions ranging from social, academic, economic and moral life issues of individual campers. Some matters were family– related.

Mrs Esther Tucker, a staff of DISET and wife of SU National Director, was the Counselor at both camps. Revelations from these counseling sessions are mind-blowing as you can see from the testimonies and questions from campers. Beyond counseling, she served in various other capacities.



Question and Answer Session

This session is usually meant to get feedback from campers on what they are taught, seek for clarity and address some personal challenges. It is also a form of guidance counseling. In Bo, the following constituted the panel for the Session: Mrs. Esther Tucker (ND’s wife), Pst Mrs Gloria Johnson (Deputy Head-teacher of YWCA), Mr. Albright Barrie (Bible Expositor), Rev Simeon Yonda (Training Secretary) and Pst Augustine Turay (Former Staff). The Panelists for the second camp were Mrs. Esther Tucker, Rev Abraham Tucker and Mr. Abraham Williams (Training Secretary). Some questions asked were as follows:

1. In the teaching on “Ethics and etiquette” we were taught to speak politely to our elders. If I am polite to an elder and he/she speaks to me in a harsh manner, what would I do?
2. There is this girl in my life that whenever I see her my heart pants after her, I don’t know why. Now that I’m a Christian, what should I do to avoid her?
3. I was a Muslim but I have given my life to Christ. My parents are Muslims. How will I live a crucified life when am under their control?
4. How can I tell him that I don’t want to be in love with him anymore because when I tell him, he will plan against me to hang for me somewhere so as to harm me?
5. My father bought me a motor-bike to ride for commercial purpose when I should be in school. I really want to go to school. Is it right to turn down his decision? My brothers love me and want me to stay with my mother. My father does not take care of me again. Is it good to stay with my mother and go to school or stay with my father to ride motorbike?
6. Mrs Tucker, I want to speak to you about my question privately?
7. Is it nice to play with a man’s feeling without loving him?
8. If the boyfriend promised me that he will married me, what do you want me to do?



9. My parents are dead and am in a relationship with a girl who helps me with finances for my academic work. This girl has been asking me to have sex with her. Now that I have heard the word of God I want to discontinue the relationship but she will cease helping me. What do I do?

10. How can we live in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship and do not commit immorality? How can I overcome lust? ...And many more



Quiz competition

Quiz competition was held between representatives of all four houses. The quiz panel comprised of Camp Officers whose questions were based on the teachings from all sessions at the camp, academics/ school work and current affairs. Peace House took first position in Bo while Esther and David houses first positions at the Makeni camp.

For Bo, the panelists were: Mrs Esther Tucker, Pst Augustine, Mr Alimamy Turay, Aunty Erica, Aunty Gloria, Pst Yonda while Abraham Williams, Emmanuel Sockiety and Pastor Christian Roy Tarawallie for Makeni.



Quiz competition with one rep. each from the four houses

Camp Officers

We had 23 Camp officers in Bo and 10 in Makeni with Mrs Erica Clarke and Pst Joseph Bunting-Grayde as Camp Commandants respectively. One Camp Officer who was attending SU camp for the first time summed up the attitude of officers that “they were loving and caring”.



A cross section of camp officers with two campers

Group Bible Study/ Practical Christianity

There were an average of ten groups of campers for both Bible Study and Practical Christianity sessions - four sessions of Bible Study (one session daily) while two sessions of Practical Christianity.

The thrust of the Bible Study from the book of Galatians chapters 1 to 3 were:

a) That the source of the crucified life is the gospel/ Freedom is in Christ alone .



b) To change or abandon the gospel is dangerous

c) Righteousness does not come through keeping the law but by faith in Christ

d) Christians are not only saved by the gospel, they also grow by it.

Practical Christianity aimed to discourage laziness and greed/ selfishness. Hence, promoted hard work and love for others .

Attendance

We budgeted for a total number of 300 campers including officers for all three camps initially. However, a total of **387** campers and officers were in attendance at both camps; with **237** for the first camp and **150** at the second.



Group photo in Bo



Group photo in Makeni

Interest in attendance of vacation camps had dropped as some parents have been afraid to release their children since the outbreak of Ebola in 2015 and for some security reasons. As a result, there has been low turnout of campers in the past 3 years. With this in mind, we intensified advertisement through social media, Television and sent notices to churches. Although each camper belongs to a church, we registered campers who were specifically sent and paid for by their churches in the Western region. Such churches include:

- Glory Assembly of God Church
- Jesus Triumphant Ministry
- First Presbyterian Church
- Central Community Church
- Nissi Ministry
- Saint Equippers Ministry Church
- Triumphant Baptist Church

It is exciting to note that the Pastor of Jesus Triumphant Ministry conveyed their youths to and from the camp. This was our first experience in camping ministry. We hope to increase in our partnership with Churches next time.

About 70% of both campers and officers were attending SU camp for the first time. Attendance was drawn from various operational areas: Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Taiama, Moyamba, Kailahun and Mattru Jong for the first camp; while at the second camp, they came from Makeni, Kambia, Lunsar, Mile 91, Magburaka and Kono.



Campers in a queue to register on the 1st day



Campers from Kono

House Activity/ Talent Night

All campers and officers were grouped into four (4) houses. The Houses at the first camp were **Faith, Peace, Joy and Love** while those at the second camp were **Esther, Ruth, Paul and David**. All houses were assigned various responsibilities and graded by their performance. Such activities included washing of dishes, sweeping/ tidiness of the conference hall and dormitories. Though it was competition, the objective was to expose campers to service – serving others and to learn basic for domestic responsibilities. Other house activities included quiz competition and talents show through drama, miming, write and read poems, etc



Challenges

Major challenges faced during the camps include:

- a) Inability to pay and late payment of camp fees – This affected planning as we were not quite sure of attendance from various areas or towns until very late. Notwithstanding, some campers could not afford camp fees while others made partial payments. ***Please pray with us for provision to host more youths in Camp 2020.***
- b) Health—There were few cases of ill– health of campers. The Camp Nurses diagnosed them of malaria, typhoid, fever and other related illnesses. There were two cases beyond the control of the nurses and these were referred to the Government hospital very close to the camp venue.. They were well treated and returned to the camp after a day.
- c) Security - We experienced four cases of theft at the first camp. This happened during night sessions when the dormitory areas were dark and all campers and officers were at the conference hall. Thieves broke window panes and used objects to fish out items belonging to campers who resided at the ground floor. Emergency security measure was put in place immediately by the camp Officers which forestalled reoccurrence. The School authorities had assured us of security but they were few to man a very big compound.

Games and Sports

We had exciting games which had deep moral lesson (s). Before commencement of each game, it was introduced to campers along with its lesson (s). The games taught lessons like: Be focused in every aspect of life, consistency, team work and individual sacrifice for group success.



Exercise



Games



Games for female

For the days when it rained heavily, morning exercises and evening games were played indoors. In the absence of more indoor games, some campers could not take part but rather were spectators and cheered their friends, room-mates or house members.



Football game



Getting ready to play

Meal Time

All campers and officers were served meals three times each day – breakfast, lunch and dinner. Special camp officers were assigned exclusively to cater and prepare very good food.



Lunch



Breakfast



Two buses on the highway from Freetown to Bo



Bus load of Campers heading to Bo (a 3 & half hours drive)



(Mrs Christiana Gbakima teaching children campers)



Arrival at campsite



(ND standing between two blind campers)

Appreciation

We are grateful to SU Scotland for their financial support towards the camp. Also we appreciate individuals and churches who donated for the program. Thanks to all our committed camp officers, Bible Expositors, topical speakers, SU Field Ministry coordinators and Area Chairmen who helped greatly in mobilization of campers from various operational areas. May God bless you all.

Camp 2020

In preparation for next year vacation youth camp, please see below details:

Theme: On Fire for Jesus (Rev. 3:15-16)

Topics that will address current challenges of Christian youths include:

- Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Offence
- Personal and Public Safety
- Overcoming Corruption at School
- Environmental Sustainability

Duration: Sunday 19th July to Saturday 15th August 2020 (4 weeks)

We intend to hold camps in 10 different places with an average of 150 campers each (1,500 campers). Camping in these clusters will enable us reach more youths. Pray for God's **guidance and provision** so as to **harvest** more souls for the **Lord**.

Obituary

We regret to report the death of **Mrs Victoria Williams**, who served as one of the camp officers in Bo and was a facilitator for the Children session. She was very active at the camp in July 2019 and this appears as her last Christian service. She went to meet the Lord on 13th August 2019 after a brief illness. She was 52 years. Mrs Williams was one of our school sponsor / teacher charge of SU school group at YWCA Primary school in Freetown.



RIP
AUNTY VICTORIA

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