



<https://savesierraleone.org>

December 2021

Dear Friends of SAVE,

SAVE IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CATASTROPHE

In the general scheme of life, change seems inevitable. Many changes have affected the human family since our last newsletter. The global Church family, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, experienced tremendous changes and employed creative adaptations to stay alive in a world ravaged by the scourge of the killer Covid 19. The idea of fellowship meetings in cyberspace, or a cyber-Church, for example, was a concept unheard of in the African context barely a decade ago. The practice became routine with the advent of the Covid pandemic.

This short newsletter necessarily focuses on a few dimensions of the adaptive responses by SAVE partners (Harvest Church, SLEFES, EFSL) in an atmosphere of global devastation. As in other parts of the world, the Covid outbreak practically shut down all public gatherings, including religious and educational institutions in West Africa. Notwithstanding these stringent setbacks and precautionary restrictions on mass gatherings, imposed through strict government - enforced public health protocols, the WORD of God and the Church of Jesus Christ marched on!

The adaptive response of local ministries in Sierra Leone to the Covid 19 pandemic is the central nervous system of this SAVE newsletter. We sincerely invite you to share in the experiences of God's Children (SAVE partners in West Africa) as they shared the love of Christ against humanly insurmountable odds.

Yours sincerely in our Lord Jesus Christ,
David Musa, SAVE Executive Director

Harvest Church



Bishop Julius Laggah at Pastors Training Conference

Bishop Julius Laggah of Harvest Church reports that "With the support of SAVE we were able to transport, to our annual training conference, about 200 pastors, Church leaders and Church workers from our Harvest

Churches in the provincial towns and villages. Our profound gratitude to SAVE for your support over the years."

SLEFES, Sierra Leone Fellowship of Evangelical Students

In 2021 SAVE has provided substantial funds to the national student movement in order to maintain support of their full-time Christian workers. The intermittent closures of college and university campuses, resulting from covid, initially affected the SLEFES ministry to the 35 campuses across the nation.

By the grace of God SLEFES was able to adapt to the 'new covid normal' using the available social media platforms to effectively reach out to the student groups with the Gospel and discipleship training. Student WhatsApp

groups are proving very useful throughout the covid pandemic. Programmes including Bible studies, prayer meetings, orientation training programmes, and counselling are being successfully held using Zoom and WhatsApp platforms. SLEFES recorded a viewership and fellowship of 70,000 participants across all of Sierra Leone using of those platforms. SLEFES leaders say how the Lord has been faithful to them throughout these extra unusual times.

Drastic Fire Accident in Freetown

On Friday November 5th, Sierra Leone faced a tragic disaster in which at least 140 people died. An explosion happened at a junction in the densely populated Wellington suburb of the capital Freetown. The explosion was a result of a fuel tanker colliding with a lorry (carrying sand). The fuel spilled and later ignited with an inferno of fire engulfing bystanders and vehicles. Over 100 people with various degrees of burns were treated in overwhelmed hospital facilities in Freetown. Over two hundred family heads were directly affected.

At the site of the collision there was no immediate explosion or fire for over 45 minutes. Poverty stricken bike riders and other people in the Wellington community saw the collision as an opportunity to collect fuel from the loaded and leaking fuel tanker which they could later sell. The delayed sudden explosion and tragic fire claimed lives and property worth millions of dollars. Houses, cars, shops, malls, and motor bikes were consumed in the inferno. People in the community have lost their livelihoods. Many of the victims were petty traders and commercial bike riders. Victims who survived are having significant long-term needs including plastic surgery, physiotherapy, and counselling on living with disfigurement and financial purse to start a business. SAVE is in the process of providing funds to help those who suffered.

EFSL, Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone

SAVE continues to give financial support to its long-time partner the EFSL (a nationwide network of Bible based Churches and ministries) towards their department for Church Growth and Evangelism. EFSL is providing church roofing support. Over the past year EFSL supported the Cross Purpose Church (Koindu) and the Manyeh community Church to roof their churches. The Baptist Church (Tintafor, Lungi) has commenced roofing work and the Wesleyan Church at Masongo, village. Materials have already been made available to them for the roofing work.



Roofing Work in progress at Baptist Church, Lungi

During 2021 the EFSL has supported twelve MBBs (**Support to Muslim Believers**) who were facing various challenges because of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. So far, they are all doing well in the faith. Two EFSL Regional representatives in the South/East and North/Kono regions continue to disseminate Christian messages and discussions through the one-hour radio programs in Bo and Makeni. During the Covid pandemic, the radio programs have been used extensively for Bible studies, prayers, responding to questions, giving people hope and sensitizing churches and communities on how to stay safe and to comply with the Covid regulations.

The **SAVE Board sends their many thanks** to you for your faithful and prayerful support for the people of Sierra Leone. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO THE SAVE MINISTRY PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:

Our Current Financial Needs | SAVE (savesierraleone.org)

or contact SAVE Treasurer, Larry Moran, 3847 Shelborne Ct., Carmel, IN 46032 USA. Ph:317-989-2448