



## Diakonia Interdenominational Services for Counseling, Evangelism and Teaching (DISCET)

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### **DISCET NEWSLETTER, JULY– SEPTEMBER 2022**

*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.*

#### ***1. DISCET HOSTS THREE DAYS CRUSADE WITH WELLINGTON FIRE INFERNO SURVIVORS IN TWO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.***

DISCET Staff hosted a three days gospel campaign in August this year in two different communities in the east end of Freetown. The first community was the Old Wharf community where many of the people that were victims of the tanker inferno a year ago lived. A large number of these Survivors were in attendance amongst others that were also indirectly affected. Over seven hundred people were in attendance. The Rev. Simeon Camara preached the word of God in the meeting and one hundred and fifty people made the decision to follow Christ. The meeting lasted for two days in the Old Wharf community. After the gospel campaign, we had a follow-up meeting with the fire survivors. They expressed their gratitude for the initiative and pleaded to DISCET not to forget them as their living condition is becoming difficult as the cost of living in the country keeps soaring.



A one-day gospel campaign was also held with another group of fire victims in the Hastings community. About one hundred and thirty (130) people were in

attendance. Rev. Simeon Camara and Rev. Tom Bassey preached the word of God in this meeting. Thirty-three people gave their lives to Jesus and were directed to attend the Glory Assembly of God Church in the Hastings community. Like in the Old Wharf community, after the meeting we had an audience with them. They also pleaded with DISCET to help them restart their businesses again.

## **2. DISCET CONTINUES TO COUNSEL INMATES AT SIERRA LEONE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS**

Since July this year, DISCET has been counseling inmates at the male correctional and reintegration centers in Freetown. DISCET Counselors Simeon Camara and Mrs. Isha Shoyoola have been visiting the maximum male correctional center at Pademba Road every second Wednesday and the male reintegration center at New England-vile every fourth Monday. The chaplain department that is responsible for counseling in the correctional service of Sierra Leone welcomed DISCET counselors, expressing their profound gratitude for having DISCET Counseling in the correctional service.

## **3. DISCET SL BOARD MEETS TO ADDRESS STAFF WELFARE**

The DISCET SL Board met in late September to discuss the concerns raised by Staff in the wake of the exponential rise in the cost of transport fare and essential food commodities. The rise in the cost of fuel by 200% resulted in the rise in transport fares from one point to another in the country. This in turn had a toll negative effect on the cost of essential commodities. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purpose Committee, Mr. Walter Carew tabled a proposed recommendation to the Board for approval. In the recommendation, the FGPC Chair told the Board that since DISCET is currently not in the position to review salaries and the conditions of service for its Staff which has been due since six years ago, the Finance and General Purpose Committee has introduced COLA (Cost Of Living Allowance) in order to buffer the rise in the cost of living. This recommendation was approved for implementation by the DISCET Administration.

In another event in the same meeting, Mrs. Gloria Nelson-Williams, former chairperson for the DISCET anniversary committee was inducted as DISCET'S newest board member.

#### **4. DISCET COUNSELING DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES**

The DISCET Counseling department continues to run a counseling school in Freetown and registration is in progress for Waterloo. The first batch has ended their six-a month training course and the second batch is in process.

The department also counseled nine (9) persons with different cases starting from depression, anxiety, marriage, and courtship. The depressed was given a respite after the counseling sessions. When he lost his job, he thought that is the end of his life. This jobless situation took him into a depression to the point of hallucination, but the intervention of DISCET Counseling gave hope to the jobless man. The man later decided to trust God as he looks for another job

#### **5. DISCET RADIO OUTREACH**

DISCET continues to air its preventive counseling programs (The DISCET Family Hour and the DISCET Counseling Hour) on the Believers Broadcasting Network (BBN FM 92.9). The program continues to attract an audience as it addresses life issues like issues of marriage and direction to those intending to marry through its courtship sport. A program of the DISCET Family Hour Radio program.

#### **6. ORBITUARY**

DISCET Staff, Mrs. Isha Isatu Shoyoola lost her husband to the cold hands of death late September this year in Nigeria. She is currently in Nigeria for the funeral ceremony.

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