



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

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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 COUNSELING SCHOOL BEGINS TO BUILD MOMENTUM AS JOURNALISTS BEGIN TO ENROLL FOR THE COURSE.

The DISCET Counseling Training Center has started building momentum among the fourth estate of the country's governance structure. The Rev. Dr. Michael Davies, a lecturer in journalism at one of the country's prestigious universities enlisted for the six-month counseling course that runs from July to December this year. Rev. Dr. Davies explains to DISCET the need for counseling in the journalism sector citing, "We meet and deal with traumatized people every day". With a counseling background, it helps ease our work. Twenty-two Students were recruited, and this includes people from all walks of life ranging from classroom teachers, pastors, and journalists to correctional service personnel. This has been the largest number of students enrolled in the Western Area since the establishment of the school thirteen years ago.

PREVENTIVE RADIO COUNSELING CONTINUES ON SKY RADIO FM 106.6.

The DISCET preventive radio counseling that started fourteen years ago continues to go strong making an impact on its audience. This program used to be aired on the Believers Broadcasting Network, BBN FM 92.5 but because of administrative constraints, it is now aired on Skyy Radio, FM 106.5. Because of the issues this program has been addressing in troubled marriages, singles in relationships aspiring to marry serving as a rudder to them and also shedding light on good and godly parenting over the years has made the DISCET preventive radio counseling program to be one of the widely listened radio program in the country. In the last three months, over 100 text messages flooded the DISCET Family Hour phone together with numerous live calls. These text messages and calls confirm our listening constituency.

Here are a few text messages of the numerous text messages we have in our archives stored in the last three months.

1. After ten years of marriage, my husband abandoned me and he is now asking for a divorce. Will I stay single for the rest of my life? Please comment.
2. Please sir, is it good for your mother and wife to live together when you know they don't get along well?
3. I consider the interest of my fiancée, but she does not care about mine. I'm almost fed up with this attitude and the way she negatively responds to me whenever I bring this issue up. What do I do?
4. I thank God for this radio counseling program, my marriage was almost at the brink of collapse, but listening to this program humbled me causing me to go back to my husband apologizing and asking for his forgiveness. Now me and my husband are living together in peace. May God bless you.

These are some of the text messages sent to us and we are required to answer them.

DISCET COUNSELORS ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM INMATES IN CORRECTIONAL CENTERS IN SIERRA LEONE

DISCET Counselors continue to visit correctional centers in the Western Area. Their main topic of discussion has been "Life After Prison". This topic has been an exciting topic as many believe in God for their release. This topic was centered around not going back to the challenge that brought them to correctional centers. Preparation for life after jail will help Inmates to judiciously use their time in prison adding value to their lives as there are many skilled work available there to enhance human capital capacity. They were encouraged to grab those opportunities and make use of them.

As the Counselor spoke to inmates, some vowed to make use of every opportunity at their reach so that at their release they will be responsible citizens that will contribute to national development in their own little ways. Inmates in the different

correctional facilities thanked God for DISCET for their timely intervention in their lives when they felt all hope has been lost.

SCHOOLCHILDREN WERE GIVEN HOPE AMIDST THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC MELTDOWN IN THE COUNTRY.

The hopes of School children at the St. John the Evangelist Primary School, Methodist City Mission School, Regent Square Municipal Junior Secondary School, Akibo-Betts Municipal Junior Secondary School in the center of the city were alleviated by DISCET Counselors as they complained about the adverse economic hardship hitting them and their families. Many of the children in these schools ask DISCET to assist them with school feeding as the lunch provided by their parents is never enough these days. DISCET consoled them that no condition is permanent and that they should keep trusting God as they work hard at their studies for better days that lie ahead. However, DISCET promised to take their request to organizations that work in that direction, so that they can assist them with school feeding materials.



The pupils pledged to the Counselors that they would work hard at their studies, and nothing would motivate them to degenerate to the taking of harmful drugs as a substitute to cushion their adverse living conditions. DISCET Counselors in group counseling encouraged the pupils to stay away from harmful drugs as it will only endanger their lives rather than add value to them. The Counselors also encouraged the pupils to stay away from bad friends as that will determine the kind of citizens they will be in the future. A pledge form was later distributed to them for signing in which they affirmed that they will stay away from bad friends and the intake of harmful drugs.



THE DISCET BOARD OF GOVERNORS MET AND DISCUSSED STAFF WELFARE AMIDST EXPONENTIAL INFLATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Board of Governors on Thursday 5th October 2023 met to discuss DISCET activities in the last couple of months and to review the staff conditions of service in light of the current inflation in the country as it hits 50.94%. The DISCET Board met and discussed the need for a salary review but as they looked at the present economic base of DISCET, they unanimously agreed not to review salaries now but to increase the Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) by 30%. They also discussed several local fundraising strategies that are to be implemented by the Secretariat.

OBITUARY

DISCET regrets to announce the death of its former Board Member, Finance Committee Member, friend, and partner, Dr. Amos Kakpindi Lavalay. His death took place at his Hill Station residence in the early hours of the 18th of October 2023. Dr. Lavalay served DISCET with all fiber of his being till his demise. He will be remembered for his careful method of handling issues till a lasting solution is reached.

His remains will be laid to rest in the southern provincial village of Tiama in the Moyamba district of Sierra Leone on Sunday 5 November 2023.

May his soul rest in peace.

Faithfully compiled by:

Rev. Steven A. Mahoney

Director, DISCET.

