



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.

1. DISCET COUNSELING SAVES A MAN CONTEMPLATING TO COMMIT SUICIDE

A Christian brother that works for a reputable Christian humanitarian organization whose name I cannot disclose was rushed to our 51A Berwick Street Secretariat to rescue him, for he contemplated ending his own life because he feels life is boring and challenging. The man narrated his story, that he feels like hell is broking over his head because everything he does lately does not respond positively back to him. The man continue to say, "I have been rejected everybody around me including my closet friends and family members". He said, he has tried to find out the cause but could not come to a reasonable conclusion not to think about proffering solutions to ending the worrisome life style I now live. This condition left him restless and eager to know why people that used to love him now abandon him. The DISCET Counselors took him through some counseling sessions. It was in those sessions his problem was identified. His disregard for his wife and family led all others to turn their back on him. The man later understood his mistakes and decided to make amends. This led him to total healing and restoration.

DISCET EMBARKS ON ESTABILISHING DISTRICT CO- ORDINATORS IN THE 16 DISTRICTS OF SIERRA LEONE.

The DISCET Director with the approval of the DISCET Board of Governors, Sierra Leone has been setting up DISCET structures in the provinces called DISCET District Co-ordinators. These Co-ordinators are charged with the responsibility of representing DISCET at district levels. They will be responsible to organize programmes like marriage conferences, evangelism seminars, effective preaching seminars etc. They will co-ordinate the

starting up of the DISCET Counseling Schools in their districts. In districts where the DISCET Counseling School is operational, they will be responsible to supervise those schools and to recruit students at the end of the school year.

The DISCET Director has travelled to different districts in the country like Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Kono etc setting up these district officers in the last few months. More work has been kindled in those districts as they plan and work on various programmes for implementation. The remaining districts will be reached in the months that lays ahead, God willing.

2. DISCET AND THE THOMPSONS FENCE IMPASSE THAT RESULTED IN A BREACH OF CONTRACT BY THE THOMPSONS.

A piece of land owned by Rev. Eranus Thompson and wife to a quantum of six town's lot was bought for \$ 27,000/00 in December 2022. The delegation that went to pay for the said land was the Sierra Leone Board Chairman, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purpose Committee and the Director. The delegation was told to pay for the fence but the cost was to be negotiated later. The delegation agreed on the grounds that the fence will not be expensive because conventionally lands are always bought with all other properties on it including the walls.

Six months later, a bill of quantity was sent to DISCET by the Thompsons amounting to **\$ 10,210.32 USD equivalent to SLL 237,800,000.46 (Old Leones)** for an L-Shaped wall. This BOQ left DISCET authorities in total amazement. A negotiating meeting was scheduled for the Thompsons where a deadlock was reached over the reduction of the cost. Another meeting was agreed upon by both parties in order to break the deadlock but still no consensus was reached. The DISCET legal adviser was informed of the development and was asked to broker a truce and mediate between the Thompsons and DISCET. She conveyed a meeting for both the Thompsons and DISCET to mediate in the impasse. It was in that meeting DISCET was told by the mediator that the said parcel of land has been sold

to somebody else because the Thompsons said they were urgently in need of money. This breach led the DISCET Director to summon an extraordinary meeting of the DISCET Board of Governors to address the issue. The Board resolved that the matter be taken to court but the Bishop of the Thompsons be first informed. The Thompsons were told of the Board decision where they pledged to pay back every cent DISCET spent on the land. Between April this year and now, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars have been paid into the DISCET dollar account.

In a separate development, another land was spotted in the Allen Town community, 25 kilometers away from the city center for sale. The said parcel of land costs \$ 5,900.00 USD per town lot. An advance payment of \$ 15,000.00 USD has been paid to the owners of this land. Unlike the Grafton land, DISCET intends to buy four towns lot for now and later pay for another two cumulating into six towns lot in all at the end of the day.

3. DISCET SCHOOL COUNSELING CONTINUES IN DIFFERENT SCHOOLS IN THE WESTERN AREA.

The DISCET school counseling continues in the western area of Sierra Leone. This move by DISCET is more appreciated now than ever before as Kush intake by youths is on the rampage. Kush is a deadly drug that has claimed the lives of thousands of youths in Sierra Leone. The intake of this deadly drug has so spread that even school going pupils have been affected thereby leaving threat on the next generation. The intake of this drug has been widespread to the point the government of Sierra Leone declared a state of emergency on it use and other harmful drugs.

The school counseling drive has greatly helped in the fight against Kush in schools. This preventive counseling drive in the schools has helped reduce the intake of Kush within the school domain especially those schools engaged by DISCET.

4. THE DISCET COUNSELING SCHOOL RECRUITED AND ORIENTATED NEW STUDENTS FOR THE JULY TO DECEMBER SCHOOLYEAR.

The DISCET counseling school recruited students for the June –December session. Fifteen students concluded the January to June session. These are people from all works of life and academia.

The Secretariat has also hired the service of one lecturer to lecture in the Counseling School. Rev. Victoria Mama is a graduate of the Milton Margai University of Technology. She studied guidance and counseling and being a past student of the DISCET Counseling School, we taught it fit to hire her services as one of the School's lecturers. Mrs. Esther Tucker, the former DISCET Administrative Assistant to the Director is also lecturing in the school on part time.

We thank God for the impact the school is making on its Students as many are involved in counseling in their communities and places of work.

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