



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

51 Berwick Street, Off Walker Lane, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Telephone: +232 77 494949/ +232 78 801213 Email: discetst@gmail.com, estmahoney@yahoo.co.uk

DISCET NEWSLETTER, JANUARY– MARCH 2025

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 STAFF PLANS THE FUTURE OF DISCET FOR 2025 IN A RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE RETREAT

In January this year, DISCET Staff started the year in a planning retreat that lasted for three days. In this retreat, the Staff took a close review of 2024 activities in correlation to the planned programmes outlined for that year under review. It was discovered that visitation of DISCET Friends and local donors will be very crucial to the raising of internal funds, especially their commitment to the attendance of the major local fundraiser, DISCET Thanksgiving Service. The DISCET Administrative Assistant, Mr. Julius Fatorma, was earmarked to serve in that capacity. His function will solely be that of pastoral care to these friends who serve as local donors.

As we continue looking at 2024, it was discovered that little progress was made in the area of evangelism due to the absence of the Field and Programme Officer, who resigned his position and left the organization some time back. The meeting agreed to hire a Field and Programs Officer as soon as possible.

DISCET GRADUATES 24 TRAINED COUNSELORS FROM THE COUNSELING SCHOOL



The DISCET Counseling School graduated twenty-four students in January this year. This was the combination of the January to June and July to December 2024 batches, respectively. This graduation marked the 16th batch that has produced a total of 800

trained counselors from the school since its inception in 2010. The theme for this year's graduation was "Counseling, the antidote for National Development". The guest speaker spoke eloquently on the theme to the point that it almost left all in attendance motivated to attend the counseling school. Over three hundred people attended the graduation, among them were board members and some members of the Finance General-Purpose Committee.



The certificates were delivered by the Rev. Ishmael Beresford-Cole, Chairman of the DISCET Board of Governors in Sierra Leone. This year's graduation, the Director Emeritus, Rev. Can. J.E. Modupe Taylor-Pearce, was unavoidably unable to attend due to ill health. Thank God his health condition has considerably improved over the weeks.

Prior to the graduation, the recruitment of new students was also done, some of whom were in attendance. These students are currently attending classes at the DISCET Secretariat at 51A Berwick Street.

3. DISCET CELEBRATES 27 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN SIERRA LEONE

The 30th of March this year marks the 27th anniversary Thanksgiving celebration of DISCET's 27 years of service to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, Conakry. This celebration was held at the King Memorial United Methodist Church on Regent Road in Freetown. The focus of this year's Thanksgiving celebration was, "Launch out into the Deep" Luke 5) 1 18. The preacher was a United Methodist preacher and pastor, Rev. Emmanuel Pewa, resident pastor of the church where the celebration was held. The service was attended by Friends of DISCET, Alumni, and others who have directly or indirectly benefited from the services of DISCET. It was a time of reminiscence as a family reunion. The Thanksgiving on the whole was a success.

4. DISCET PLANS WITH THE CHRISTIAN CHAPLAINS OF THE SIERRA LEONE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICE DELIVERY TO INMATES.

DISCET was invited by the Sierra Leone Correctional Service as a partner to plan the



Christian Chaplain department of the Organization. Rev. Simeon Camara, the DISCET counseling lead, attended on behalf of the Director, as there was another meeting scheduled for the Director that same day

Director General of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service applauded DISCET for their work among inmates, which has resulted in a great change of attitude and character in the center. He told the audience in the meeting that the contribution of DISCET through counseling and preaching of the gospel has yielded tremendous fruit among inmates in the different centers. He encouraged DISCET to continue the good work as he said, “Who knows, some will be discharged from this place as preachers or very good Christians, thereby contributing to national development”.

DISCET Staff visits Sierra Leone’s Correctional Centers every first and fourth Wednesday of the month to counsel inmates at the centers. This has been ongoing for the last seven years. Our relentless service to inmates at the centers has established a closer partnership with the Correctional Service than ever before. The inmates in these centers have needs like a portable Public Address System (Bluetooth), the Christian Chaplaincy is currently building a non-denominational Church edifice, food, etc. Please pray with us for the meeting of these needs.

5. THE DISCET BUILDING PROJECT

Towards the middle of this year, DISCET will embark on a building project. The building of a DISCET Secretariat that will accommodate a multi-purpose hall, which DISCET will use to raise funds through the rental of the hall for wedding receptions, parties, Seminars, Conferences, etc. The first floor shall contain the administrative offices, whilst the second floor shall be used for DISCET retreat and seminars.

This structure will be built in phases to make fund mobilization easier. The cost of this building would have been sent to you earlier than now, but DISCET Administration is stalled by the progress of the work at the quantity surveyor's office at New England Ville in Freetown. He is still working at it, and we are expecting finalization of the work by the end of this month, April.

As soon as the work is concluded with the quantity surveyor, I will forward the same to you for your prayers.

1. THE DISCET FINANCE OFFICER MOVES ON FOR ANOTHER JOB

The DISCET Finance Officer, Mr. Valentine Benjamin, has moved on to another job since 31st March 2025. He notified the DISCET Administration in March 2024, and after several meetings and persuasion by the Director, he decided to give in and wait a while. But this year, the Director was unable to persuade him to stay. The reason for his resignation was that he had gotten a job that would pay him more as compared to DISCET. He has been released, and we are currently searching for another finance officer.

Compiled by: Rev. Steven A. Mahoney
Director, DISCET SL

_____ The End _____