



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. AS THE NEED FOR TRAINED COUNSELORS INCREASES IN SIERRA LEONE, DISCET STARTS TRAINING COUNSELORS AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

The need for more counselors to address the emotional needs of the people of Sierra Leone has been emphasized in recent times. With economic hardship on the increase, which has plunged the citizens into a dilemma as to what will happen in the next decades, many of the youths have reverted to drug abuse. The drug that has found its way into our communities today in Sierra Leone is KUSH. This is a strain of Cannabis Sativa (weed) that has strong sedative or relaxing effects. Because of its high level of Myrcene (a terpene that promotes sedation), when smoked, it can make its victim drowsy and fall asleep unintentionally. When the smoking of this deadly drug continues, it results in swelling of the legs and feet, which eventually ends in death. This has caused the lives of many youths in Sierra Leone.



A team of three volunteers was set up by the DISCET Director to find out the cause of youths persistently involving themselves in this menace. The result of the finding was, “things are hard and that, there is no hope for the future”. About ninety percent of those interviewed said this same thing. This Kush has found its way into the provinces and even the villages. This is the reason why the training of counselors to have counseling boots on the ground at every district is very crucial for the restoration of Sierra Leone to its former state of being.

A forty (40) contact hour training in professional counseling that lasted for five days was conducted in July/August this year in Makeni city in the Bombali district, Northern Province. This training targeted twenty-one (21) persons from seven districts in the north and eastern province of Sierra Leone. This training marks the beginning of a semester-long program that is spread over two years. The next semester will be from the 15th to the 19th of December 2025. Kindly pray with us for open doors of financial provision for the actualization of this dream.

2. DISCET CONTINUE COUNSELING INMATES AT THE SIERRA LEONE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

DISCET’S dream of entering the Correctional Center is to Counsel, engage and prepare Inmates for a great life after prison. After they have been released back to society, they will face the society from which they were indicted with confidence and hope. For the

past few years, DISCET has been visiting and counseling Inmates at the Sierra Leone Correctional centers.

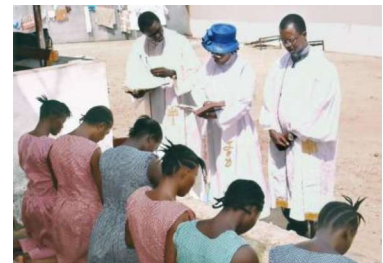
As DISCET continue to counsel Inmates, many have developed zeal to learn skills in the centers. This idea has made them to be more hopeful about their future. Here are some testimonies gathered from some during our sessions:

TESTIMONIES:

1. My name is Anthony Pewa,” I am almost completing my tenth year term in this Correctional center. DISCET Counselors’ periodic visit has had a positive impact on my life. I thank God for DISCET because they have made me confident and hopeful to face the realities of life once I’m discharged from this place. My life is now transformed beyond my wildest dreams. I was encouraged to learn skills as life will continue after prison”. Anthony continued, “ Now, I am a tailor by profession. DISCET Counselors always say, “being in jail is not the end of our lives”, I grabbed this saying and concentrated on learning tailoring whilst in prison and very soon I will be discharged from this place as a professional tailor. I will setup a tailoring shop upon my discharge with the little retrenchment package I will be given to start life again. I am grateful to DISCET”.



Some female inmates took confirmation vows to join The United Methodist Church during a service at the Female Correctional Center in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



Often, released prisoners are shunned by society and lacked the skills that can make them self-reliant, but with skills training, they can have a vocation to rely on, to make life meaningful after detention,” she said. “We teach them simple things like floral and balloon decorations, tailoring, hall decoration, soap making, arts and crafts, “one of the Correctional Service Officers explained to DISCET Counselors. The ministry is also involved in advocacy with government officials for the release of those whose jail term is ended. “We thank God,” Quiwa added, “that most of them joined The United Methodist Church after they are released.”

She remembered a former prisoner who now attends Brown Memorial United Methodist Church. The Brown women gave the woman business startup funding to supported her, and she is doing well. Another former inmate, who now attends Bishop Baughman United Methodist Church, is also succeeding.



DISCET Counselors met with Sierra Leone Correctional

Service Officers as they intends to build a Church Edifice within the correctional facility where prayers can be said for Inmates and others led to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. DISCET pledged to pray along with them for open doors of financial provision for a speedy construction of the edifice.

2. THE COUNSELING SCHOOL IS IN PROGRESS WITH SIX STUDENTS FOR THE JULY TO DECEMBER SESSION.

The DISCET Counseling School is in progress with six Students for the July to December 2025 session. Seven Students have just finished the January to June session of the training. The students are from all walks of life, spanning from bankers, government officials, teachers, and medics. Almost all of them are graduates from different universities across the world.

Mrs. Marilyn Dixon from the Bank of Sierra Leone testified that the course is actually good; it makes anyone who has gone through it work on their lives to improve their interpersonal relationship with people, especially in the workplace and family members.

3. DISCET RADIO PROGRAMMES CONTINUE TO TRANSFORM AND HEAL SOME MEMBERS OF ITS AUDIENCE.

The DISCET radio programs on Sky radio in Freetown in the western region, the Radio New Song in Bo city in the Southern region, and the Eastern Radio in Koidu City in the Eastern region continue to air preventive counseling discussions every week in the various regions of Sierra Leone.

These preventive counseling programs have been a blessing to many of our listeners across the country. The topics span from marriage, career, parenting, time management, procrastination and its dangers, forgiveness vs unforgiveness, pride, self-destructive tendencies, and common individual issues like depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, anger management, and many more.

According to text messages and live phone calls that reached us, two hundred and six (206) text messages and Sixty-eight live phone calls were made by listeners on the Sky radio in Freetown and five hundred and eighty-six (586) text messages from Radio New Song in the South and Eastern Radio in the east in the last six months.

Here are a few text messages from listeners;

1. *A lady texted us saying that her husband is a smoker [he smokes chicer] and the smoke always disturbs and torments her and the kids greatly, and she doesn't smoke. She said she has spoken to him several times about it, but he is still in it.*

2. My husband is cheating on me. He comes home very late every day. I have reasoned with him, but he continues coming late. What do I do?

5. DISCET CONCLUDES PAYMENT FOR A FOUR-TOWN PLOT OF LAND AT ORUGU ALLEN TOWN IN FREETOWN.

DISCET has concluded payment for four plots of land situated at the Orugu village, Upper Allen Town, off Calaba Town in Freetown. The total sum of \$ 23,600.00 USD was paid to the Jonah family through their solicitor, Mr. Maurice Gabber, at his Big Waterloo Street office in the presence of the DISCET Board Chairman, the DISCET Treasurer, and the DISCET Director.

The next bridge DISCET is to cross is to start the building of the DISCET Secretariat. This building is intended to be three in one due to the available land space. This building will house: 1. Multi-purpose hall (ground floor) 2. Offices (1st Floor) and a Conference Center (2nd Floor). This building shall be 80ft long by 40ft wide with two floors. The ground floor (the multi-purpose hall) and the top floor (The conference hall) shall be used for fundraising for DISCET operations once they are completed. It shall be built in phases. The first phase is from the foundation to the concreting of the first floor to enable DISCET to move out of rented premises. The second phase shall be the 1st floor, and the third phase shall be the 2nd floor and finishing. The first phase will cost us \$ 46,685.00 USD Kindly pray with us for the actualization of this dream. A detailed project write-up for this building will be sent to you in the next few days. God willing.

6. OBITUARY --- THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF DISCET PASSED UNTO ETERNITY

The founder and the first Executive Director of DISCET was called to glory on Monday, 21st July 2025 at 7:00 am. He died at Dr. Olabissi Cole's hospital at Edward St. in Freetown. His remains were laid to rest on Sunday, 10th August 2025, after a massively attended funeral service at St. George's Cathedral on George Street in Freetown. May his soul rest in perfect peace

Written by: Rev. Steven Mahoney, Director DISCET SL.