



Trustees: Richard Bayfield (Chair), Rev David Bendor-Samuel, Ian Gill (Secretary), Dr Diana Snape & Norm Robins (Treasurer)

Love Sierra Leone Annual Report 2016

Charity Registration No. 1157847 www.lovesierraleone.org

Thanks to all Supporters and Trustees

The most important message within this short note is to thank you, our Supporters and our Trustees. The gifts of your time and money are truly appreciated by our friends in Sierra Leone. Indeed, on Christmas day Pastor Yatta wrote to us all and ended with the words "Thank you, thank you, thank you. On behalf of our Team I say happy Christmas and a prosperous new 2017. May the good Lord bless you all".

I must thank all our trustees - Diana for her unstinting phone calls and messages to Pastors Yatta, McCarthy and friends, Norm for keeping the accounts and regulatory submissions in a good place, Ian for sending containers of recycled phones, laptops, shoes, books and lab equipment to Sierra Leone and to David for his encouragement, knowledge of the charity commission and his prayers.

Sierra Leone 2016

At the beginning of 2016 there was a post Ebola improvement anticipated in Sierra Leone. However, the reality seen by Pastor Yatta in the autumn was a further decline as he wrote "Things are getting more difficult by the clock. Interestingly looking at Sierra Leone today you will find out that the figures are swinging down. Educational standard is going down. Chances of getting daily bread are going down, Health standard are also going down, checks and balances are literally breaking down". There were press reports of the IMF approving further lending to the country.

Christmas Meal for the Community 2016



Early in December Pastor Yatta Samura wrote to us requesting £250 to provide food and refreshments for 125 less fortunate children in Sierra Leone. The plan was to arrange games, feed them and explain the Christmas story to them on Christmas Eve. The news and photos received on Christmas day were heart rending:

"We had a good time yesterday with the children. We were able to feed 138 children far more than we expected because Children around the neighborhood keep coming. The children were very happy and excited. We went and played some games with them and they came eat, drink and danced. They stayed almost the whole day not wanting to go home. It was very emotional for me. Thank you very much for your support. It was a clear sign yesterday that people are hungry in this country. Elderly people started coming from the neighborhood to ask for food".



St Andrew's School, Maima

In October Pastor Yatta reported that almost all the children who were sent for entrance exams where able to make it to secondary school. At the end of 2016 the school was being handed over to the government. They are happy to take it over. We still want to have some amount of influence in the school. This is a fantastic result having opened the school in 2004 and begun with one class of around 30. The school now has classes in every year group from 5 – 11 years and over 300 pupils.

Church Ministry

In November 2016, the first set of students graduated from our Church Training School. Pastor Yatta wrote *“This is to develop our members to grow in His grace and to equip them for service. We started with 25 students and finished with 18 graduating. The training began with a Christian Foundation module and then progressed to Christian Discipleship and Christian Leadership.”*



Sports Ministry

In November Sports Life brought together 8 primary schools in the Godreach Community of Freetown as part of the “Spot them Young” program. The photos below show an exciting and challenging day of fun was had by all. A cursory glance at the many barefooted children and the poor state of the football pitch highlights the need for ongoing help.



Right to Read

In 2016, we continued our RightToRead English improvement project in Ahkom Junior School and the Technical Vocation (Tech-Voc) Centre with about 130 Junior School pupils and 30 youth and adults in the Tech-Voc center. At the start of the year the head of Secondary school reported that *“two young girls newly promoted from Junior Secondary 3 to Senior Secondary 1 (form 4), spent a good deal of their morning break, last week, in the punishment corner for skiving class in a determined bid to attend the JSS 3 RTR class”* – obviously the kids love their RTR sessions. As with last year we are seeing marked improvements in pupils’ English reading and comprehension skills. We are trying to get funding to expand the program to many more schools, though funding is proving hard to come by.

Financial overview

In 2016 a new charity ‘Ahkom’ was set up to support Ahkom School. During the course of the year we transitioned donations and expenses for Ahkom school to the new charity.

Our total income for 2016 was £28,029 with expenditure of £30,162. Income included £5,708 in Gift Aid. Excluding reduced income for Ahkom school, overall income dropped by about £2000 as compared to 2015. This, combined with a drop in the value of the Pound, meant that the money actually reaching Sierra Leone reduced by about 10%. We disbursed funds as below:

Christian Community Church £15,731

- Teachers’ Salaries £7500
- Pastors’ salaries, Church & Sports Ministries £5600
- School Buildings & Equipment £1200
- Travel & other administrative costs £1431

Ahkom School and Vocational Centre £5,777

- Teachers’ Salaries £4700
- Travel & other expenses £1077

RightToRead Sierra Leone £8,654

- Salaries £7970
- Equipment (petrol, oil, batteries, etc) £684

Outlook for 2017

We continue to support the 3 strands of Education, Sport and Ministry.

We recognize we need to stabilize our support for our current commitments C3M Church and Sports Life. We consider that “stabilize” means knowing that we are able to support them for some months/years ahead. This would mean finding longer-term donor commitments and a contingency fund.

We recognize the need for a communications role in Sierra Leone to give us up to date news and stories. We have tried to recruit without success but we will continue this search.

The full content of Pastor Yatta’s newsletters, other news and ways to give are on our website.