



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

## Love Sierra Leone Annual Report 2018

Charity Registration No. 1157847 [www.lovesierraleone.org](http://www.lovesierraleone.org)

### Thanks to all Supporters and Trustees

The most important message within this short report 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. Many of us realise how privileged we are to live in the West. It is both humbling and rewarding to receive the thanks below for providing a Christmas meal for children. We recognise that alongside the provision of a Christmas meal, our main objective is to bring about improvements through Education. The successful work with Right to Read is particularly encouraging and we are now developing a cost-effective blueprint for teaching English language skills. These skills are vital for children to have any prospect of future employment.

### Christmas Meals December 2018

Pastor Yatta and his team organised a meal for children in Freetown and one in Kono. He wrote:

*"I am sending you this report to say thank you, thank you and thank you again for putting SMILES in the faces of the children. This is the 2nd year we have undertaken this wonderful project of Feeding the Children within this Christmas holiday in our community. We ask them to come at 2 pm they started coming at 9 am. You can see the excitement on their faces. We planned for 100 kids we had 123. Many more where standing at the gate wanting to come. We have to close the gate, they stood outside crying and begging.*



*There is too much hunger in this country – parents cannot afford to feed their children. We also bought some training equipment and gave them gifts."*



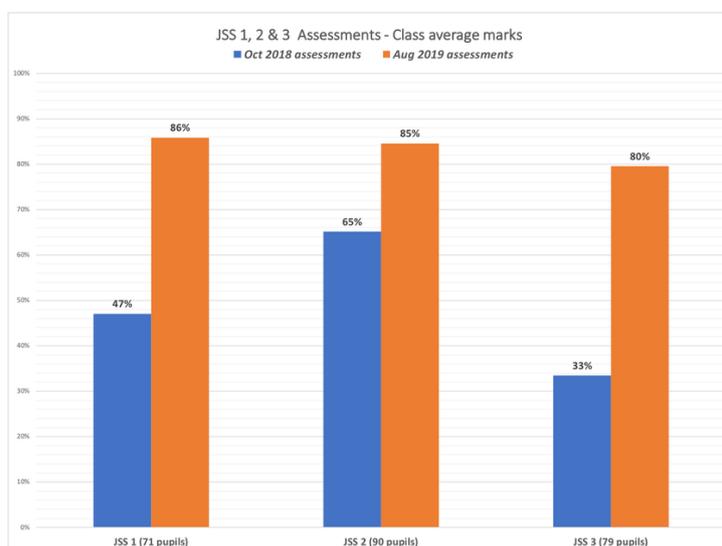
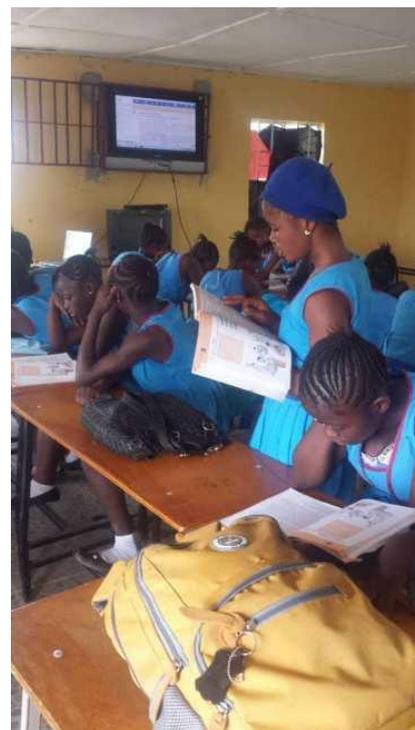
## Right to Read

RightToRead is a program that uses technology to improve English language outcomes for pupils. We have run RightToRead in Ahkom School Junior classes 1 to 3 for a few years and it ran smoothly again this year. The average mark achieved by pupils in English assessments improved by over 20% during the year. Teachers also reported an overall improvement in self-esteem amongst the pupils, for example some children who were previously reluctant to speak in class now began to do so, their confidence bolstered by their improved English skills.

Thanks to a grant from The Casey Trust we were able to start RightToRead lessons at UMC Girls School in Koidu, with about 300 girls in Junior classes 1-3. The graph below shows the impact of RightToRead lessons on the girls' results in English assessments – an average improvement of 35%!

Some girls at UMC School made a touching video about their experience with RTR, it is on our website at

<https://rtrsl.wordpress.com/2019/06/16/girls-at-umc-speak-about-rtr/>



We continue to look for additional funding to expand the program to other schools, many of which have expressed a strong interest in participating.

Adults in the local community (and neighbouring Guinea) have also approached us to see if we can help them with their English skills. This is very exciting as the adults would be able to pay a small fee towards lessons. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to launch this initiative, but we continue to seek ways to fund it.

## Education and Sport

In 2018 the community coaching grew as more and more children kept coming. This created a need for sporting equipment, balls and footwear. Additionally, the Sports Ministry team in Freetown provided several classes each week in Physical Education (PE) as part of the curriculum at several schools in Freetown. We collected and sent some sporting equipment, footballs, used football kit, cricket bats, balls and pads, to help with this ministry. It was most welcome!



## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Church of 3 Missions (Ministry, Education and Sport)

C3 Mission celebrating 20 years in 2018. Pastor Yatta wrote:

*“We have a lot to thank God for. The God Lord has taken us this far. We are grateful to have come across our UK supporters on this journey and we always thank you for the assistance you have rendered us. We are grateful to God for many children in our churches were able to make it to university. Three graduated also from university in 2018 and have got jobs. One child that Pastor Yatta started looking after since she was one year old entered Medical school in 2018 to study medicine. I am very grateful to God. It is expensive but God is faithful. Thank you for your prayer support and assistance.”*

## Financial overview

Income for 2018 was £26,248 including £3,453 in reclaimed Gift Aid, with expenditure of £24,040. We disbursed funds as below:

Christian Community Church £15,090

- Pastors’ salaries, Church & Sports Ministries £10,520
- Buildings & Equipment £1,000
- Christmas meal for children £2,000
- Travel & other administrative costs £1,294
- Bank and other fees £276

RightToRead £8,950

- Salaries - Program management, IT Support £7,320
- UMC School equipment purchase & setup £640
- Teacher support £800
- Equipment maintenance £190

## Outlook for 2019

We continue to support the 3 strands of Education, Sport and Ministry. Moreover, the act of helping our neighbour fits with our Christian perspective, although many of us ask whether we can do more.

We recognize we need to stabilize our support for our current commitments to 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 support are on our website.**

## Giving

If you would like to support our activities you can donate on line (one off or standing order) at [www.lovesierraleone.org](http://www.lovesierraleone.org) or by cheque, payable to “Love Sierra Leone”. For further information please contact Richard Bayfield, 25 Davenant Road, Oxford, OX2 8BU, (01865 311800), email [info@lovesierraleone.org](mailto:info@lovesierraleone.org).



Pastor Yatta with runners during the annual Sports Life Jog4Jesus event.

A colourful church service

