



Love Sierra Leone Annual Report 2019

Charity Number 1157847

www.lovesierraleone.org

Trustees: Richard Bayfield, Rev David Bendor-Samuel, Ian Gill, Norm Robins



Thank you

The first and most important message within this short report is to thank you, our Supporters, and our Trustees. The gifts of your time and money are hugely appreciated by our friends in Sierra Leone. The progress of the “Right to Read” programme has meant that this year we significantly improved English literacy for

340 school children in 2 schools and have a long waiting list of other schools, eager to join, but subject to funding. What has been particularly humbling were the requests from some parents to join in these basic literacy classes. These skills are vital for children (and their parents) to have any prospect of future employment.

There are many Christians who contend that the word “love” is a verb. 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 are thankful to Pastor Yatta Samura for his multiple ministries to those in need, irrespective of whether they have a Christian faith or not. By Pastor Yatta’s example of “love in action” he continues to grow his congregations in both Freetown and Kono. Early in 2020, when Covid-19 began to hit Europe, his immediate and generous response was to say prayers for his supporters in the UK, which exemplifies his selfless attitude.

Christmas Meals for Children

A message from Pastor Yatta:
“I say on behalf of the children I say a big thank you for providing the resources for the feeding. I want you to know that you are putting smiles in the face of the children. We change the method this year we took them to the beach which they like and enjoyed so much. They had the opportunity to play, swim and eat....



Many of them are coming from a Muslim home and a struggling home to survive. This feeding program is a big blessing to them. Which they look forward to every year. We went to the beach at 9 am and return at 6 pm. They ate three meals that day. They really enjoyed it. Thank you Thank you Thank you.”



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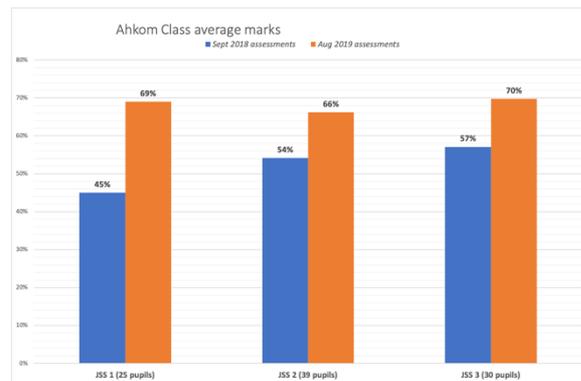
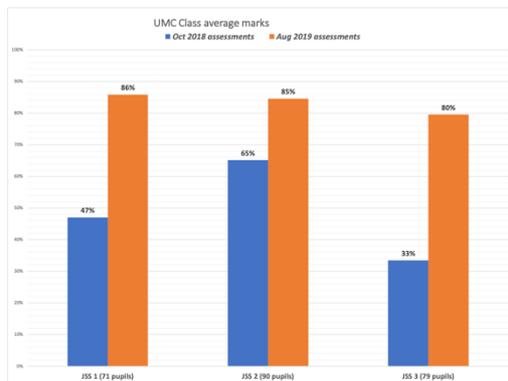
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And from David Sandi who arranged a meal at Ahkom School:

“Many thanks for your support. Around 300 kids from all sectors of the school were there. They enjoyed music, performances, games and music. God bless.”

RightToRead

RightToRead (RTR) is a program that uses technology to improve English language outcomes for pupils. We ran RTR lessons in classes JSS 1-3 at Ahkom School (93 pupils) and UMC Girls School (247 pupils). In start and end-of-year English assessments, the average improvement by pupils at Ahkom was 16% and at UMC it was 35%.



Several other schools were eager to start RTR lessons but we did not have the funds to support this - RTR requires us to install a computer and TV screen in each school, approximately £650. Some schools began to raise money themselves to buy this equipment but in 2019 the Sierra Leone Govt changed their subsidy model for schools and this caused unexpected funding issues for schools, as a result of which they had more critical issues to focus on. Some parents and young adults in the community asked if we could provide RTR lessons for them. Very frustratingly, we were unable to respond due to lack of funds.

Financial Summary

Income in 2019 was £28,411 including £6,065 in Gift Aid. Expenditure was £32,035 disbursed as below. Our end of year cash reserve was £1,158.

Christian Community Church £20,681

- Pastors salaries, Church and Sport Missions £14,940
- Flood relief £2,000
- XMAS Meal £2,000
- One-off support for pastors (medicines, laptop) £650
- Travel, Bank charges £1,091



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RightToRead £11,354

- Salaries - Program Management, IT Support, teacher support £9,730
- Petrol, oil, equipment maintenance £1,110
- Travel / publicity £410
- Bank charges £104

2020 Outlook

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

As we write this report Coronavirus has started to take a grip in Sierra Leone. We are running campaigns to help Yatta purchase buckets and soap – basic items to help them wash their hands. Yatta fears that people in lockdown will risk starvation in addition to infection.

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.

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 online (one off or standing order) at 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.

