



Love Sierra Leone News February 2021

Charity Number 1157847

www.lovesierraleone.org

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

Christmas Meals and Gifts in Freetown

Due to cash shortages at the bank in Freetown, Pastor Yatta was unable to collect the money we sent in December for a Christmas meal. He managed to get the money in January - here's how he described the day.



I am excited to update you on the feeding program which took place on the 10th of January 2021. I initially shed tears when I saw how excited and hungry the children were. We planned to start at 3 pm. The children started coming at 11 am. We could not send them away, so we had to find something for them to eat and we repeated at 3.00. People brought their children that were not part of the planned number and pushed them inside the gates. The number keep growing. We prepared for 100 and we had more than 150.

In poor countries like Sierra Leone the children look forward to a feeding program of this nature. The feeding gives us a direct connection between the children and their families.

They were sure of one big meal and a take home pack. There is a cry for food in this country. Children go to school on an empty stomach. That is why some young girls ages 11 and 12 years old dropped out of school and are given into early marriage. Hunger is a nightmare. In their gift packages we put soap, face mask and hand sanitizer to prevent them from COVID 19 that has started growing again in Sierra Leone. You would have loved to see the excitement on the faces of the children when they received their gifts.



We had an enjoyable time together. We played games and danced. They even danced on their way home!

We also used some of the funds to buy footballs, vests, footwear and to help

with the payment of school fees for 12 vulnerable children that are part of our team. We don't take any child that is not going to school to be part of our team. Their parents cannot afford the school fees, so we assist as part of our ministry. This will prevent these 12 children from going on the streets for at least the next school term.





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News from David Sandi in Kono



David runs the Ahkom Technical School in Kono, his recent news is somewhat mixed. On the positive side he told us that 402 children benefited from your generosity with a Christmas meal and gifts. He wrote “The children ate heartily, danced heartily and went home with gift bags!”.

On the downside David’s home in Freetown was recently broken into (along with others in the vicinity). David was awoken by armed robbers who seized a laptop, his phone, and cash within the house. Fortunately, there was no extreme physical injury, apart from the trauma, which is not to be underestimated. More recently David has contracted typhoid. A kind donor has sent him £200 for urgent drugs which are working, and he asks for your prayers for a full recovery.

David is also the leader of the [RightToRead](#) programme which through the generosity of one donor has recently expanded to 6 more schools in the area and now reaches over 2000 children! On their induction course several teachers said that “[RTR is] the best thing for rapid improvement in English language in schools”.



Whilst the work of RightToRead has always been part of Love Sierra Leone, Ahkom school has hitherto been a separate charity. However, because of significant overlap in both Trustees and objectives, Ahkom charity is now in the process of merging into Love Sierra Leone (with completion due by the 31st of March 2021). To demonstrate this new joined up approach we have a new fundraiser initiated by Diana Snape to [raise funds for new classrooms at Ahkom school](#).

On a practical note, we are asking all regular giver to Ahkom to please transfer your standing orders to “Love Sierra Leone” (we will write to you separately). We also make clear that donations to Ahkom, RightToRead or Pastor Yatta’s ministry are all clearly identified by Norm Robins, our Treasurer, to ensure donor gifts for specific areas of work are honoured.

Thanks to your generosity we sent a £3,000 Christmas meal / gift grant in December and it was gratifying to read such positive feedback. Both Pastor Yatta and David Sandi have written saying “*Thank you very much to you our donors for giving us the opportunity to feed and serve these children. It is indeed a blessing to us. Thank you so much*”.

Needless to say, this ministry will continue to need financial support going into 2021 from those who can continue to give in these uncertain times. As always, all such giving is greatly appreciated and 100% of the gifts go straight to the work in Sierra Leone.

Richard Bayfield
Chair