



Hello,

I am Chris Robertson, the new President of the board of directors for The Light of the World Ministry. I want to personally thank you, on behalf of the board, for your generous contributions to this ministry over the years.

It is because of your commitment to support this ministry that we have been able to have the greatest year serving the Lord in Sierra Leone so far of the past 13 years.

The Light of the World Ministry (TLOWM) began after a trip in November 2007 where Paul Paquin visited the Liberian Refugee Camp in Waterloo, Sierra Leone. Surrounded by 900+ children along with pastors, teachers, and lay people, he had no idea why God had sent him, a cold weather person, to such a hot and humid place. Paul stepped aside to a quiet area to ask God why he was there. God had him look past the children to the pastors who were congregated there--these men were to be Paul's mission field. They needed to be taught sound biblical doctrine as well as integrity and leadership skills. The pastors also needed study Bibles, as many only had the New Testament.

Paul met Pastor Ben Margai, the National Ministry Director for Sierra Leone, and had the privilege of spending time with him traveling from village to village. Ben showed a hunger for the Word of God and exhibited wonderful leadership capabilities. He expressed the need to teach the pastors, especially the young pastors. Ben and Paul "were joined at the hip" for the rest of the trip, as Ben shared his love for God, the pastors, and the congregations, and his desire to equip the pastors.

The Holy Spirit opened Paul's heart and mind to the concept of The Light of the World Ministry, which was originally intended as a teaching ministry, training pastors in the villages of Waterloo, Freetown, and Bo. God used Paul to initiate the official 501(c)(3), establish a Board of Directors, develop the Constitution, By-Laws, etc. and establish an official bank account. In addition he worked to establish an NGO (Non-Government Organization) and bank account in Sierra Leone. He also prepared and scheduled seminars in a variety of locations across Sierra Leone.

On Paul's second visit to Sierra Leone (the first one where he was representing TLOWM), Ben and Paul traveled from Kenema to Tefeya. In Tefeya, they planted the first church and established the ministry's first school. As Paul explained to the village chief the goal of teaching pastors in the three villages, the chief looked at Paul and asked, "Why don't you teach here?" Paul talked with Ben and they concluded that it was feasible. Eighteen pastors from surrounding churches attended the first TLOWM two-day seminar in Tefeya.

The Lord made it clear that TLOWM should focus on teaching in the remote villages where pastors could participate who otherwise would not receive these teachings because of the limitations of travel. TLOWM has held seminars in all twelve provinces, and Pastor Ben has grown in his influence in the country with church leadership, community leaders and politicians.

When ebola hit the country in 2014, hundreds of children were left orphaned and many ebola orphanages sprang up quickly. In 2015, we partnered with Wordsower International on two orphanages as well as a ministry to nearly 50 widows in the area. Today we have nearly 100 orphans under the care of TLOWM staff. This was never in our original vision, but it has become a large part of what we are doing because of the great need.

TLOWM has established--in partnership with donors like you--19 independent gospel centered churches and 22 schools, ranging from pre-school to Sr. High school. We have also established a recognized Bible institute and a Bible literacy program for all of our students and have a solid relationship with The Evangelical College of Theology, an accredited university.

The largest honor we have received this year is the recognition by the Sierra Leonian government as the official training and equipping organization for all of the chaplains in every discipline throughout the entirety of the country. That is a tremendous honor and responsibility and we do not take it lightly.

This year the board of directors decided to bring me on as the board president and acting director of this great ministry. We took seven months to identify and begin to articulate what our ministry is all about and who God has designed us to be. Now that we know who we are and what we are being called to do, we looked at our budget and realized that we have some significant needs that are very pressing. I not only want to ask for your continued support but additionally for your prayers as we look to increase our annual budget by \$65,000 this year. We are excited to partner with the Lord and with you to introduce this ministry to even more partners as He opens up doors for this ministry.

However, currently, our most pressing need is with one of our orphanages. We are immediately in need of \$2,600 more in monthly giving to meet the needs of 42 children and the staff that help protect them. Please consider if you or someone you know would be willing to help us ensure that every child under our care is receiving enough food, proper clothing, medical care, housing and staff support. You can send anyone interested to our website [tlowm.org](http://tlowm.org) and click the give button. We need your help to get this great ministry fully supported as soon as possible. We ask that you would please pray with us for this need to be quickly met.

We would love to partner with you even more closely as we move to improve on our current ministry commitments and continue to expand as the Lord leads.

Thank you again so much for your help in this exciting and fruitful ministry.

In Christ,  
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