

Support EFSL News October 2018



EFSL Biennial General Assembly

Dear praying friends,

When we drive on the roads we are often subject to speed limits. It is also widely acknowledged that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. **But with God there are no limits!** There is no limit to His love, no limit to His mercy and no limit to His power. The psalmist reminds us, **'Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.'** Psalm 145:3. As we continue to support the work of EFSL, the churches, pastors and people of Sierra Leone let us be encouraged by God's promise given to the Jews in exile through Jeremiah, **'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'** Jeremiah 33:3. We should not limit our expectations of what God can do. Paul echoes this in his prayer for the Ephesians, **'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen.'** Ephesians 3:20. Let us not limit God.

EFSL Biennial General Assembly

From the 3rd to 7th September 2018, EFSL held its Biennial Assembly in Bo. A total of 328 delegates attended from our member body churches, including eight international delegates from Liberia, Togo, Kenya and Vietnam. The theme was deliberately selected to prepare God's servant for a life of character and effective ministry. Many pastors testify of how their personal life, family and ministry have been impacted during the Bible exposition and plenary sessions. Elections were held for the three regional representatives and four members of the Executive Committee. May both new leaders and old know 'the God of no limits' as they look to serve Him.



Newly Elected Executive Committee Members



EFSL General Secretary and Guests from Liberia

Support EFSL Ministries

Support to Muslim Background Believers (MBBs): We continue to give support to our MBBs in the Kenema Safe House, to Sani, for her daughter, and to five students, of which two are in university. They continue to do well in their Christian lives. Mohamed, Mary and Jane have just completed their senior secondary school external exams. Martha and Jeneba are in university; please continue to pray for provision for their college fees (£550 each), as they are due to pay this month. According to Pastor Sesay, Jeneba is doing very well assisting her in the Assemblies of God church in Makeni. EFSL continues to receive requests from pastors, especially those in the provinces, to help them support MBBs in their local churches. However, it is not able to make any additional commitments without our help.

Study Bibles: During the Assembly, study Bibles purchased over the period were distributed to 17 rural pastors from the EFSL member churches in different parts of the country. The pastors express appreciation for the Bibles, as they believe they have been further empowered by EFSL for effective ministry. However, not all of the pastors were able to receive one, so this is an important area Support EFSL hopes to address.



Sewing Machines: One of the three sewing machines bought recently has been distributed to a young Christian widow Augusta living in Yarms Farm, Freetown. She lost her husband about two years ago. The remaining two machines will be distributed in October to other needy women already on our list. Augusta praised God for the machine and said it will help her to generate income to support her three children as a single mother.

Radio Ministry: Support EFSL has increased its support to the EFSL radio ministry. The EFSL hour on the radio is ongoing in Lunsar, Makeni and Bo on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sunday evenings to teach and to discuss vital topics on prayer, discipleship, home and family, etc. Testimonies and contributions during telephone calls after the teachings have been very encouraging. According to reports from Lunsar, one of the callers was quoted as saying: "I thank God for the teachings we are receiving on the radio, as this is the only time I have been able to understand teachings from the Bible after 12 years of becoming a Christian." He prayed that the programme will continue if possible two or three times a week to help them understand the Bible, so that their lives can be transformed.



Support EFSL Trustee News: At its September meeting, Support EFSL trustees welcomed Pastor Ibrahim Sillah and Mrs Grace Ensah as new trustees.

Pastor Sillah left Sierra Leone for The Gambia during the war. He comes from a Muslim background, but when he met his future wife, Araba, who was a Christian, she invited him to an evangelical crusade, where he was converted. He is very interested in the work of Support EFSL, and has a heart to reach out to people.

Grace Ensah was born in London, grew up in Sierra Leone and came back to Manchester, studied nursing at Liverpool University and began working as a nurse in 2004. She gave her life to Christ in Sierra Leone and went to a Pentecostal Church in Manchester. She wants to find a way to give back to her native country and support church programmes there.

Bill and Jan Roberts are both well and want to thank everyone who remembered in their prayers their son Paul, who spent three days in hospital in August, suffering from a lung and leg infection. He could not wear his leg brace, but went back to work in a wheelchair, with a friend helping him. He then fractured his arm, and his car went in for repairs, so it has not been an easy period for him, Tia and the family.

Please continue to pray:

- *That God will encourage and empower Rev Titus and the leaders of EFSL as they seek to serve Him.*
- *That God will meet the needs of the MBB ministry, and for more pastors to be able to receive study Bibles to enrich their ministry.*
- *That God will enable the new Support EFSL trustees to exercise their gifts to His glory.*
- *For continued good health for Bill and Jan Roberts and also for Paul, Tia and their family.*

'Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.'
1 Timothy 1:17.

In addition to your prayers, if you want to give to EFSL so that it can continue to support the churches and people in Sierra Leone, please send your gifts to the Support EFSL treasurer: Steve Manktelow, Blackdown Cottage, Willand, Devon, EX15 2QH. (E-mail: manktelowsteve@gmail.com). Cheques can be made out to **Support EFSL (no.1141005)**.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Steve Manktelow, *Support EFSL Secretary*