

# Support EFSL News

Bill and Jan Roberts

Uisgean

Bunessan

Isle of Mull

Argyll PA67 6DG

Tel: 01681 700475

[william.bate@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:william.bate@hotmail.co.uk)

May 2016



Feeding the poor

Dear praying friends,

It wasn't so long ago that we were celebrating Easter and dwelling on the wonders of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection (I should have written this letter then, but you will see later why that did not happen until now). The particular thing that came home to me this Easter was the little phrase "once for all" (Hebrews 10 v10).

The sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross was a perfect sinless sacrifice, sufficient for the sins of all mankind. In the Old Testament the sacrifice was imperfect because it was performed by a human being (Priest), using animal blood. Hence it needed to be done repeatedly. In contrast, in the New Testament, the sacrifice was perfect because it was performed by Jesus Christ the divine Son of God, using the blood of Christ. Hence His sacrifice was **once for all** so that "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3 v16).

How wonderful is God's plan of salvation for us sinners! May we not only experience that salvation for ourselves, but also be used of God to bring the Good News to many needy people whom we meet day by day, and all over the world (especially in Sierra Leone).

## **MATTERS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

### **1. Muslims still coming to Christ**

Even though they know they will receive much more opposition, persecution, and even threats of death than they used to. Keep praying for them.

Here is the testimony of a 41 year man called Hassan Thullah, who recently came to Christ from a strong Muslim background. I hope you will be as thrilled as I was when reading this testimony.

## Testimony of Hessian Thullah

I give God the glory through Jesus Christ who saved me from going to hell.

I am a Mandingo by tribe 41 years old, born in the Yoni Chiefdom, Tonkolili District.

I was born of Muslim parents from Guinea. I also grew up a Muslim and at the age of 7 years I started to learn the Quran up to the age of 16 years.

I went to an Islamic primary and secondary school where I was indoctrinated not to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

After my secondary education I joined the Sierra Leone army in 1992 during the military rule of the NPRC.

I was arrested with many other soldiers and put into prison when the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba returned to power after his overthrow in 1996.

I resigned from the army after I was released from prison with 32 other soldiers in 2000.

I continued to pray and remain a loyal and devoted Muslim.

In November 2015, while I was sleeping one night, I saw a man in my dream whom I have never seen before

and he shouted my name three times.

When I attempted to move towards him, I saw myself under a great light and the light burned my head which resulted in a terrible headache.

When I regained consciousness, I began to pray and realized the person who was calling me was Jesus Christ.

I repented of my sins and all the evil and persecution I have carried out against Christians.

In the morning I contacted some Christian brothers in my neighbourhood

who took me to the Flaming Church in Magburaka

and I was prayed for

and I made a decision for Christ.

Today I am enrolled in the EFSL Bible training Centre at Magburaka, training to become a pastor.

**To God be the glory!**

### 2. **Newly planted churches (7) roofed** since the last prayer letter in November

Recently, the Rev. Titus (Gen. Sec. of EFSL) sent us some details of the 7 churches which have been roofed recently (£850 each) with your gifts. Usually it takes 2 to 3 years for the newly planted churches to grow sufficiently for its members to build a structure which needs roofing. What amazed me was that each of these churches now had between 65 and 120 regular attenders. So please realize that when you send in a gift of £850 as an individual or fellowship, your gift is going to be extremely valuable to God's Church in Sierra Leone. **You are making a difference!** So keep praying and keep giving (using the Financial Support form at the end of this letter) whenever you can.

### 3. **Health Problems** (for Jan & myself)

Soon after Easter Jan had another experience of heart fibrillations in the middle of the night. They normally occur twice a year, and last for 1 to 2 hours. They are very frightening! On 2 occasions, we have called emergency but it takes 1½ hours for the ambulance to arrive when travelling from north to south on our Isle of Mull. Once they arrive, they are excellent.

Then a week or two later I had a TIA (mini stroke) on the left side of my face, neck & hand. The after effects have been tiredness and decline of memory (rather more than the usual 80 year old!). For example, I have taken far longer than usual to write this prayer letter – very frustrating!

We have both been put on a number of medicines, for which we are thankful. But we have both been advised to cut back on our active lifestyle. Neither of us find that easy! We would value your prayers please.

#### 4. Other Family News

Recently, Jan and I travelled south to visit our 2 sons & their families. We started in Bristol where Jamie & Hannah live with their 2 teenage boys, Zerom & Jordan, whom they foster. They are a lovely family. Not long before our visit they had driven up to Scotland to visit us. Jamie is already running a rice growing project in S/L with Christopher, a long-time S/L friend. Jamie & Hannah still plan to live permanently in S/L when the right time comes.

Then we went to Devon to stay with Pam, my sister-in-law. She didn't see that much of us because most days we spent time with Paul & Tia and our lovely grandchildren – Christina (7), Leala (5) and footballer Joshua (nearly 2). You can imagine what fun we had together! But we needed to come home for a rest!

#### 5. On-going needs resulting from the Ebola epidemic

I will not write at length on this topic as we majored on it in the last letter. Nevertheless it is still a very important area of need for prayer and financial support.



Ebola orphans

- **Orphans** – there are many orphanages like Heaven's Home in Waterloo, but also many individual families who have taken on 1 or 2 orphans often from families who were either families or long-time friends.
- **'Survivors' of Ebola** who unexpectedly are developing health problems (like the Scottish lady who had to return to hospital twice). There is no NHS in S/L.
- **Widespread hunger** as the economy is still struggling. EFSL uses much of the gift money we send out to assist those suffering from the 3 problem areas listed above (orphans, survivors and hunger). On top of that they have been able to dig water wells for 10 primary schools in communities heavily affected by the Ebola epidemic. What a task! But I am sure they were hugely appreciated by the staff & students of these schools, and nearby villagers.

## **6. Please do not forget these on-going needs:--**

Bikes for rural Pastors (£70), Sewing Machines (£90 – usually for Pastor's wives), NT Tapes in the Krio language (£15/set), Study Bibles for Pastors & other leaders (£20).

Also support of MBB's/Muslim Ministries (£500/month), and the Church Empowerment Dept. (£450/m) whose 2 staff are responsible for distributing the gift money we send out each month, and ensuring its best use.

If you wish to contribute to any of these needs, please turn to the Financial Support Form at the end for guidance.

## **7. Conclusion**

At the recent meeting of the Trustees of 'Support EFSL' some decisions were taken in the light of our health problems. Jan resigned as a Trustee, whilst I agreed to stay on as General Secretary, but purely in an advisory capacity. All the jobs that normally go with this title were shared out amongst the other Trustees.

We have to thank God for the truly gifted and dedicated team of Trustees that He has given us in recent years. All 5 of them agreed to try and take some deputation meetings in the area where they live, but they all have very busy job situations plus many responsibilities within their churches. Pray for them. If there are any Prayer Partners reading this letter who have recently retired and feel they might like to do some deputation work on our behalf, please let me (Bill) know.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

BILL AND JAN