

Support EFSL News

June 2017



*Church School Compound and Muslim Background Believer (MBB) Safe Home (on extreme left)
(Inset: Pastor Jalloh, himself an MBB and first resident of the safe home)*

Dear praying friends,

The recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, UK are another reminder that nowhere is safe from Islamic extremism. One website claims that in the last 30 days there were 162 Islamist attacks in 25 countries in which 981 people were killed and 977 injured. Of course, very few followers of Islam are committed to violence. However, in Sierra Leone many converts to Christianity from Islam – Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) – live in fear of reprisals from their own family members, and need protection. EFSL helps churches to provide safety and nurture by supporting the establishment of safe homes for MBBs, such as the one above, near Kenema.

The apostle Paul was himself in prison for his faith when he wrote to the church at Philippi: ***'I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'*** (Philippians 1:3-6). Whether we are supporters of EFSL, brothers and sisters in churches in Sierra Leone or across the world, or whether we are MBBs recently born again, let us all take Paul's words to heart and be encouraged. Let us remember each other in prayer, and let us be joyful that we have these things in common: that we have all heard and responded to the gospel, and that ***'he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.'*** (Ephesians 1:13-14). Because of this we are all now partners in proclaiming that same gospel!

Visits to Sierra Leone: Two of the Support EFSL trustees, our Chairman, Rev. Ken Wiebe, and Jon Mousah, have both visited Sierra Leone this year. Ken flew to Freetown in February to teach in an EFSL member church's discipleship seminar in Bo, and met with the EFSL General Secretary, Rev. Titus-Williams, both in Freetown and at Bo.

Ken also visited some of the Support EFSL-sponsored projects, including the MBB Safe Home near Kenema, where he met MBB Isaac, and Pastor Jalloh who oversees the Safe Home, and heard their uplifting testimonies.



When Isaac accepted Christ at the age of 20 he was reported to his family by his brother. He tried to explain to his mother about his new faith in Jesus. She became very ill, and no doctors or medicine were able to help her. Isaac witnessed to her again and convinced her to go to a church for prayer. She became well and then accepted Christ for herself. She is now an active member of the church. With the support of Support EFSL, Isaac was able to finish school and begin earning his Teacher's Certificate. He is currently also working towards a Bachelor of Theology degree in Christian education.

Jon went to see family and friends in April, but took time to meet with EFSL staff in Freetown, including Rev. Michael Abdullahi, who oversees the EFSL church roofing ministry. Jon also visited three churches in Port Loko District: Rogbere, where the roof had been partly blown off by a storm, at Mile 34, where the roof has recently been completed, and Lunsar, where the roof was completed a year ago and the building is now in use. Jon also held a website workshop with the Research and IT team members at EFSL; however, the staff are not quite ready yet to take over the full administration and operation of the EFSL website from Jon.



Bill and Jan Latest



I am sure that many of you will want to know how Bill and Jan Roberts are. Well, back on Easter Monday Bill suffered a minor stroke (TIA) and had to be airlifted by helicopter from the Isle of Mull to the hospital at Oban on the Scottish mainland. He received excellent care and, as a result, has made a very good recovery. Jan too had to pay a visit to the hospital in Taunton to be checked out after suffering a fall. Fortunately, it seems she has suffered no lasting damage and, after a brief rest, has recovered. Last month Bill and Jan visited Devon and attended the recent Support EFSL trustees meeting. They also spent time with Jamie and Hannah and Paul and Tia and their families. Please continue to pray both for them and their family.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Leaders in Sierra Leone, as they try to steer the country through its serious social and economic challenges.
2. Wisdom for Rev Titus and the EFSL Board as they seek God's guidance in leading EFSL.
3. More support for EFSL projects, especially for church ministries projects such as church roofs, travelling Bible School, bicycles for rural pastors, support for MBBs etc.
4. The continued protection, physically and spiritually, of MBBs such as those like Isaac.

The needs in Sierra Leone are still very great, both materially and spiritually, so I invite you to continue to support the ongoing work of EFSL in any and every way. If you would like to send a gift at any time in the future please use the financial support form at the end of this letter.

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