

Support EFSL News - Emergency Edition August 2017

Dear praying friends,

By the time you receive this letter, I am sure you will have all seen and heard the tragic news of the devastating floods and mudslides in Freetown, Sierra Leone that took place on Monday 14th August 2017.



Support EFSL contacted the EFSL General Secretary, Rev. Titus-Williams on Monday evening and he gave us his account of the events of that day:

Greetings and good to hear from you at this time of disaster in our country. This morning it started raining in Freetown at about 5:00 am and the heavy down pour continued until about 8am when we received calls from friends who wanted to know whether we are safe in our Lumley area as they were hearing reports of serious flooding in the Lumley area.

Soon we decided to check outside our house and we realized that we were surrounded with water. Our front house, garage and back yard were all flooded. The water was now finding its way into the house when my driver went to the fence to punch more holes and by His grace we were able to divert the water. We praise God that he came to our aid at that time. Our neighbours suffered worst as the water flooded their compound and houses to knee level causing lot of damage to their properties. We praise God also that there was no loss of life. I was trapped at home until 11 am when I managed to get outside to go to the office.

Later we received confirmed reports of mudslide in a community called Regent where over 100 houses were covered with mudslide from mount Sugarloaf and over 400 people died (many have been discovered in the mud and many more are to be discovered). We received unconfirmed reports also that the Minister of Information and the City Mayor were also victims of the mudslide and they are currently hospitalized (no government statement of this as yet).

Serious flooding also occurred in other parts of the city such as Caningo, Lumley (where it was reported that about 23 people died and many injured and displaced), Colbot, Ferry Junction, Kissy (about 5 people reported dead) and Kroo Bay, a slum area where all bridges were broken according to reports and the people were trapped calling out for rescue.

We are still trying to access the full situation as there are many calls from the Christian community for our intervention. I will send you some pictures of the situation later tonight or tomorrow morning.



On Tuesday Rev Titus-Williams added

Generally all our staff and members are safe except for the Head of the Church of the Word of God International ministry, one of our member churches, who called me today to report that his branch pastor, who was stationed at Mutomeh village, Regent died, together with his family and some youths who were staying with him. Their bodies are yet to be discovered. I also received reports of some other members of New Harvest Global Ministries who

were affected by this incident.

Unconfirmed reports also state that another pastor of an independent ministry, who was having all night prayers together with his members also died in the mudslide. It's obvious that many more bodies are trapped in the rubble.

We are considering the possibility of an emergency provision of food, clothing household utensils, mats and blankets.

Tonight a good number of the remains of the victims have been conveyed to the Waterloo Ebola cemetery for burial hopefully in mass graves (I counted tonight on the Waterloo highway up to 18 ambulances loaded with dead bodies). I will continue to update you as we receive more information.

Please pray:

1. For the families of the victims and displaced persons
2. That the Lord will provide the victims with food, clothing, access to medical care, shelter, etc.
3. That the Lord will provide us with resources to intervene in whatever way the Lord will enable us.
4. Specifically for one of EFSL member churches - the Faith Healing Bible Church headed by Rev. Francis Mambu who has reported that 10 of his branch church members living at Motumeh, Regent died in the landslide disaster, 25 children from his school in same location died, and over 50 of his members are wounded and displaced.

In addition to your prayer support, if you would like to give to help EFSL provide practical aid to those who are affected, please send your gifts to the Support EFSL Treasurer, Etienne. Cheques can be made out to "Support EFSL (no.1141005)" and sent to Etienne Moolman, 5 Springfield Drive, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 5PN. E-mail: etienne.sefsl@gmail.com

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.' Psalm 46: 1-2.

May this be especially true for everyone in Freetown affected by this tragedy at this time.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Steve Manktelow, Support EFSL Secretary

Some more pictures sent to us by Rev Titus-Williams:

