

Support EFSL News

October 2017



Freetown on 14th August 2017



EFSL provides aid



EFSL staff preparing to distribute much needed supplies

Dear praying friends,

It is now over two months since the devastating flash floods and mudslides swept away or buried so many homes and lives in Freetown, Sierra Leone back in the early morning of Monday 14th August 2017. This event was soon forgotten by most of the world, disappearing from news headlines within days and it is now for most, a distant memory. It has been superceded by other world events and disasters, both natural and man-made: the string of hurricanes affecting the Caribbean and the USA, widespread flooding in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the major earthquake in Mexico City, disease, famine and ongoing conflict in Yemen, to name but a few.

In the letter of James we read, *'In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.... You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.'* James 2: 17, 24, 26. We know that you have not forgotten, and we thank you for your continued prayers and your generous giving that has enabled EFSL to bring relief to many of the families affected by the mudslides and flash flooding.

The EFSL General Secretary, Rev. Titus-Williams, has just sent me an account and some pictures of the latest situation in Freetown and what EFSL has managed to do so far to help with your gifts: *'The three days of torrential rainfall in the peri-urban community of Regent in Freetown Sierra Leone triggered a twin disaster of a massive mudslide and flash flooding in Regent, Kaningo, Pentagon, Gbangbayila, Colbot and several other communities in Freetown. The death toll from the disaster exceeded 500 people, with hundreds more reported missing.'*

Over 6000 people lost their homes and belongings as a result of these tragic events and were in grave need of food, water, basic hygiene kits and household utensils. It was at this point that EFSL with support from its partner SupportEFSL made a quick response by providing food and non-food items and hygiene packages to the affected population directly impacted by the catastrophe at holding centres at Colbot and Regent.'

1. DISTRIBUTION

A total of 30 households, comprising 210 people, received the following items: a 25kg bag of rice, two bundles of purified water (each bundle containing 20 sachets of 500 ml each), used clothing, household utensils (plates, spoons etc.) and hygiene kit (soap, towel, paste, brush, saba, etc.).

2. TESTIMONIES

- **Fatmata Sesay** of Colbot had this to say after receiving the family ration: *"I thank God for answering my prayers today. This morning I prayed earnestly to the Lord to have pity on me and my children by providing us food, as it has been two days gone with no food at all. My children are sure of a meal today... thanks to the Almighty."*
- **Aminata Kalokoh** stated this, *"I am a Muslim but I applaud the efforts of the Christians for coming to my aid at this very crucial time of my life."*



- **Pastor Joseph Nyuma** testified that 15 new people attended the Victory Gospel Centre Church (AOG) the days following the distribution in response to message of hope given to the beneficiaries during the distribution proper.

3. COUNSELLING

A pool of Pastors from the EFSL member churches, para-church organisations and staff who had been previously trained in psychosocial counselling and trauma healings were engaged to provide both group and individual counselling to affected persons after the distribution exercises in the holding centres and in the affected communities as well. This has led greatly to building hope in the lives of affected persons.

I was particularly drawn to the testimony of appreciation by Aminata, a Muslim, about the work of the EFSL staff and the churches in Freetown. Her words are a testimony to and confirmation of the Christian love being shown to many in Freetown. What better way to witness to others than by showing love in action? I am reminded of Jesus' words in John 12:34–35: *'A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'*



We have just sent more of your gifts to EFSL, who can now help at least another 30 affected families receive essential aid and support.

Here the EFSL staff team display sanitation and hygiene pack for beneficiaries' verification before supplying.

Support EFSL Trustees News

- At our meeting in May, the trustees were delighted to welcome two new members: Mr Harry Stevens and Mr Kevin Wiebe. Harry and Kevin have already added their energy, enthusiasm, encouragement and advice to Support EFSL, and we look forward to them becoming increasingly involved in supporting the work of EFSL.
- On another note, Support EFSL Treasurer, Etienne, has had to step down from his responsibilities as Treasurer because he is now recovering from an eye operation. I have temporarily taken up his tasks as Treasurer.
- **Bill and Jan Roberts** have moved across the Isle of Mull, and now live in the main town, Tobermory. They are both in good health. Please continue to pray for them and their family. You may want to note their new address details: **2 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6AD**. Their home number is: **01688 302 699**.

Please continue to pray:

1. *For the families of the victims and displaced persons,*
2. *That the Lord will provide all those affected with food, clothing, access to medical care, shelter, etc.,*
3. *That the Lord will direct EFSL to intervene and assist in whatever way the Lord will enable it to,*
4. *Specifically for one of EFSL member churches – the Faith Healing Bible Church headed by Rev. Francis Mambu; 10 of his church members died in the landslide disaster, 25 children from his school in the same location died, and over 50 of his members are wounded and displaced,*
5. *For the ongoing work of EFSL and the network of church fellowships throughout Sierra Leone, for its support to Muslim Background Believers, and its witness on radio and through tapes and film, and*
6. *For Etienne, as he recovers from his operation, and for continued good health for Bill and Jan.*

In addition to your prayer support, if you would like to give to help EFSL continue to provide practical aid to those who are affected, please send your gifts to me, the temporary Support EFSL Treasurer. Cheques can be made out to "Support EFSL (no.1141005)" and sent to Steve Manktelow, Blackdown Cottage, Willand, Devon, EX15 2QH. E-mail: manktelowsteve@gmail.com

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Steve Manktelow
Support EFSL Secretary