

Support EFSL News

July 2018



Post-Ebola and mudslide orphans receiving gifts at the schools supported by EFSL

Dear praying friends,

As I write, the football World Cup is in full flow, and I was reminded of the slogan I remember as a boy from the World Cup in 1970: **'Jesus saves, but Pelé puts in the rebound!'** Behind the humour of this, there is a profound and life changing fact that because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, as Luke says in Acts quoting the prophet Joel, **'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'** (Acts 2:21) And as I look at the colourful scenes in the stadia of supporters encouraging and urging on their teams in the bright yellow of Sweden and Colombia, the red of Morocco and Belgium, and the green of Saudi Arabia, I was reminded of eight exhortations penned by the writer to the Hebrews. They are in chapters 10 and 12, and all begin with the words: **'Let us...'**

1. Draw near to God with a sincere heart;
2. Hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess;
3. Consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds;
4. Not give up meeting together;
5. Encourage one another;
6. Throw everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles;
7. Run with perseverance the race marked out for us;
8. Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

May we all strive with God's help to do these, and may they be an encouragement to us and to our Christian brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone, as we all continue to live and work for Him.

Report from EFSL General Secretary Rev Jonathan Titus-Williams

Support for mudslide and flash flooding victims: With your support EFSL continues to provide relief assistance and support to vulnerable families at the displaced peoples holding centre at Culvert, Kissybrook, Freetown. These are just some of the victims of the mudslide and flooding that affected several communities in and around the capital on August 14, 2017. In February, 30 vulnerable households (177 people in total) were specifically targeted and served. They were provided with basic household utensils, such as plastic buckets, laundry containers, cups, plates and spoons, hygiene kits with soap, pastes, sanitary pads, clothing, bedspreads, etc. All these are otherwise completely unavailable to them.



Female household heads receiving their supplies from the EFSL vehicle

Life in Sierra Leone: Since the Parliamentary and Presidential elections ended on the 31st March 2018, life has been relatively peaceful, and the political atmosphere is gradually settling down. The economic situation in the country is still challenging due to the huge financial loans left behind by the past government. The new government is working hard to improve on internal revenue generation. However, there is a heavy cry from the main opposition party that their party members are being removed from government positions. One of the EFSL Heads of the Christian Family Ministries, Rev Abraham Sesay-Jones, has been appointed the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The current financial discipline adopted by the new government has been commended by the IMF during their visit last week, and they promise to make another visit in September to monitor the progress. There are great prospects ahead for the country if the new President and his government remain committed to the promises made to the people of Sierra Leone during the election campaign.



Radio Ministry: The Radio Ministry in Freetown resumed on the Believers Broadcasting Network in March 2018 despite the challenges participants face travelling long distances to the radio station. Programmes also started in Makeni on Sundays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and in Lunsar on Thursdays from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Phones calls received during the radio broadcast indicate that it is well appreciated by the communities. They see it as another source of spiritual enrichment apart from attending church services.

Study Bibles: We have not been able to reproduce NT tapes because pastors no longer request for them. The funds have been added to buy additional Study Bibles, making a total of 13 recently purchased (Study Bibles were out of stock for the past 3 months) and these will be distributed at the next EFSL Pastors Seminar to be held in Magburaka in July 2018. The picture shows the Bibles awaiting distribution.



Sewing Machines: Three sewing machines were donated to the EFSL REAPS Vocational Institute to help boost the Dress Making Department that has struggled to repair 20 old sewing machines used by the students. There is still need for more sewing machines in the department as they have not been able to successfully repair the old machines. You can read more about this work at

<http://www.efsl.evangel.org/ministries/community-impact-programme>

REAPS Students using the sewing machines in class.

Support to MBBs: EFSL continues to give support to Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) in Freetown and other parts of the country. One the MBBs, Sani, who has been blessed with a bouncing baby boy, Ibrahim, praises God for the support of SupportEFSL, as this has been her only source of financial income by which she has been surviving with her two children since she became a Christian. In addition, she is also very much grateful as her daughter, has been promoted to Senior Secondary School with a very good grade.



Rev Titus asks that we might specifically continue to pray for:

- *Peace, stability and economic growth in Sierra Leone.*
- *The new President, Ministers and Parliamentarians for good governance and to work in the interest of the people of Sierra Leone.*
- *Financial provision for the hosting of the EFSL General Assembly slated for the 3-7 September 2018.*
- *New partners to support the work of EFSL*
- *Financial support as we plan to set up and Youth and Children's desk.*

Support EFSL Trustees News: At its meeting May, Support EFSL Trustees welcomed Mr Francis Ensah as a new Trustee. Kevin Wiebe and his family are moving to Canada in August, but he has kindly agreed to continue to serve as a Support EFSL Trustee.

Please continue to pray for:

- *Francis Ensah and his family, as he commits to the work of Support EFSL;*
- *Kevin Wiebe and his family, and for their move to Canada;*
- *More Trustees and supporters to join the work of Support EFSL;*
- *Continued good health for Bill and Jan Roberts.*

In addition to your prayer support, if you would like to give to help EFSL continue to provide practical aid to those who need it, 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