

# Support EFSL News

## November 2016



2016 Church Roof project

**Dear praying friends,**

Recently Bob Dylan was named as this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. One of his well-known songs is called 'The times they are a' changing'. The same is true for Support EFSL. At the end of the last edition of Support EFSL News in May, Bill reported on the health issues that he and Jan had been experiencing. It is good to be able to report that their health has remained steady, but nevertheless they are stepping back from the active running of Support EFSL as they wished. This was fully supported by the Trustees, who are now beginning to pick up the many tasks that Bill and Jan have performed so well and so faithfully for so many years. Bill continues to be involved as Support EFSL General Secretary and both he and Jan are in regular contact with the brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone and of course, continue to pray for the situation in Sierra Leone in general and the work of EFSL in particular.

### **Introducing the Support EFSL Trustees**

**Rev. Kenneth Wiebe** is the Support EFSL Chairman and has oversight over the work of Support EFSL. He has many years' experience of mission work in Africa and in Sierra Leone itself. We are thankful for his experience and wisdom in helping to guide Support EFSL.

As Support EFSL Treasurer, **Etienne Moolman** does a great job to ensure that your financial support is directed to the individuals and projects that most need it. We are thankful for all the work Etienne does to maintain the financial records and ensure that the actions of Support EFSL are fully accountable.

The Support EFSL Secretary, **Steve Manktelow** (that's me!) I write and send out the Support EFSL Prayerletter and write up the minutes of the Trustees meetings.

The two remaining Support EFSL Trustees are **Emmanuel Mensah and Jon Mousah**. They both provide invaluable advice and support to Support EFSL. Being Ghanaian and Sierra Leonean respectively they are able to provide an African perspective and both have regular contact with Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters both in the UK and in Sierra Leone. As you may know Emmanuel used to work for EFSL in Freetown and was the Support EFSL Treasurer before Etienne. In recent weeks Jon has worked with the EFSL General Secretary, Rev. Titus-Williams to bring the EFSL website up to date and back into operation.

For those of you familiar with the ways of the internet I would encourage you to **visit the EFSL website** at <https://supportefsl.org/>. It is still a work in progress but it contains many useful details and latest news that will inform your prayers.

## EFSL: Its departments, members and projects



Taken from the EFSL website, here is a picture of the EFSL staff. Please pray for them all, especially the EFSL General Secretary, Rev Jonathan Titus-Williams (seated in the middle of the front row)

Support EFSL continues to focus its support for EFSL in practical ways: directly supporting the staff in the EFSL Church Empowerment and Advocacy Department, supporting Muslim Background Believers, supporting the 'survivors' of and those affected by ebola, funding roofs for new churches (like the one on the first page), providing New Testament tapes in Krio, study bibles for leaders, bicycles for pastors and sewing machines.

## Items for praise and for your prayers

The EFSL General Secretary, Rev. Titus-Williams has just written to me asking us all to praise God for

1. Praise God for the successful Biennial General Assembly that was held from the 25 - 29 October.
2. Praise God for the many lives that are being transformed through various EFSL ministries.
3. Praise God for the increase in EFSL membership from 56 to 75 denominations and para-churches.
4. Praise God for setting up of a new website for EFSL by one of the SupportEFSL Trustee's - Jon Mousah.
5. Praise God for completion of two school buildings by EFSL for deprived communities in Semabu and Jorma villages, Bonthe District. The children in these communities now have access to school and quality education.
6. Praise God for the continued support to Ebola affected persons as EFSL continues to minister especially to the orphans and widows in different parts of the country.

And to pray for

1. The economic transformation in Sierra Leone as the country goes through very serious economic challenges.
2. Wisdom for the new EFSL Board members to effectively manage the organization in God's direction.
3. More support for EFSL projects in 2017 as we are beginning to experience donor fatigue. Pray especially for financial support for church ministries projects such as church roof, traveling Bible School, provision of bicycles for rural pastors, support for MBBs etc.
4. God to provide EFSL with more and new partners in ministry such as local churches, foundations, charities and Christian NGOs.
5. Many lives to continue to be transformed and decisions made for Christ through EFSL projects and activities.

## A Final Thought

At the beginning of the last Trustees' meeting Jon Mousah shared a passage from **James chapter 1 verse 27: 'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.'** The other trustees shared their thoughts on both halves of this verse, that God considers pure religion to be caring for widows and orphans, something that EFSL does in Sierra Leone and that you are supporting both through prayer and giving. The second half of the verse requires us to keep ourselves from being polluted by a world increasingly tainted by violence and sin. Jon suggested one way we can do this: by heeding the instruction of Paul in Romans chapter 12 verse 2: **'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is: His good, pleasing and perfect will.'** May we all strive to be at the centre of God's will as we follow Him.

The needs in Sierra Leone are still very great, both materially and spiritually, so I ask you please to continue to support the ongoing work of EFSL in 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 (on behalf of Bill and Jan and all of the Support EFSL Trustees)