



# Support EFSL News

December 2020

<https://supportefsl.org>

## Dear praying friends,

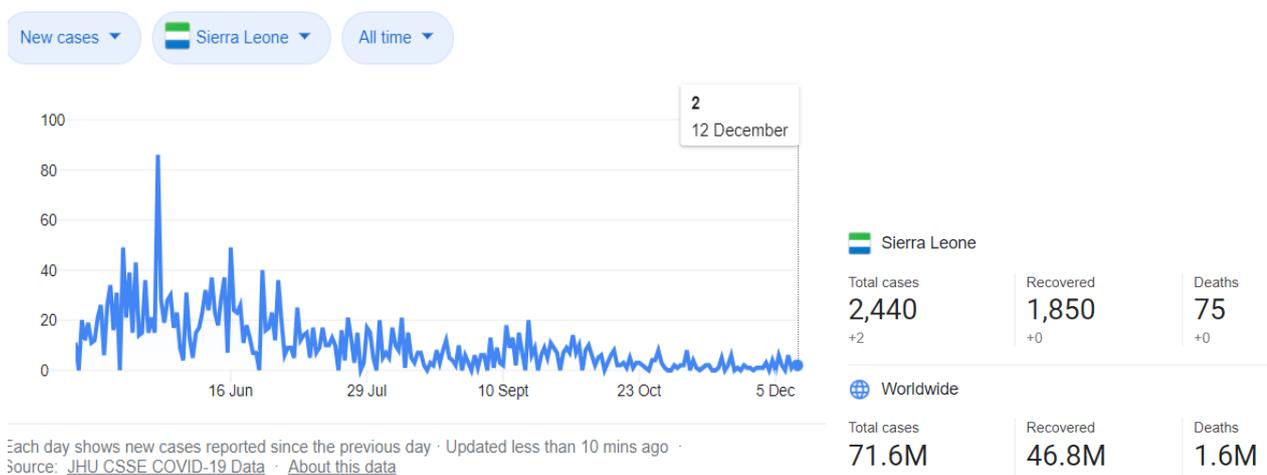
As 2020 draws to an end, we can reflect that it has contained many challenges at both international and personal levels, not least the ongoing threat of coronavirus. In response, I would offer some strands of encouragement: no matter how many years we are given, life's hardships will come knocking at our door; it could be difficult family relationships, a long-term illness or disability, living in poverty, even persecution or the loss of loved ones. **However, our God continues to reach out to us and holds us firmly**, as He promised the people of Israel in the days of Isaiah. When the nation wilted under the oppression of fierce enemies, He said, **'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'** Isaiah 41:10.

With recent news about vaccines, there looks to be a light at the end of tunnel in the battle against Covid-19. At this time of Advent, Isaiah again reminds us of God's Light in the form of Jesus: **'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned.'** Isaiah 9:2. Isaiah goes on to call us to respond: **'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.'** Isaiah 60:1,2. Jesus confirms this and invites us to follow Him: **'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'** John 8:12.

So, let us as followers of Jesus be encouraged that we need never allow darkness to consume us, and as a result wherever we live in the world – Sierra Leone, UK, USA or elsewhere – we can proclaim the words of Paul to the church in Corinth: **'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'** 2 Cor 4:16-18.

## Covid-19 in Sierra Leone

Whilst every death is a tragedy, the latest Covid-19 figures for Sierra Leone are a source of encouragement, with new cases remaining at very low levels (just 2 new cases yesterday as I write).



## Support EFSL Ministries

### EFSL Radio Programmes

One key medium of communication in many, especially remote, parts of Africa is radio. In recent years the Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone has expanded its outreach through its radio ministry. Allow me to share with you an account of one of the programmes and be encouraged by its work:

*“By the grace of God, the radio programme, which is titled EFSL HOUR, started in 2018 in Bo, a city in southern Sierra Leone. The broadcast has been a tremendous blessing in many towns and villages, most of which have not otherwise been reached by the Gospel.*

*“Each week, pastors from EFSL member churches come on air to teach and discuss Bible topics. This has led to the salvation of lost souls. For this we thank God. The programme also informs the populace about the activities of the Evangelical Fellowship and its member churches.*

***“Recently, our staff were blessed to join with EFSL for a mass baptism for listeners who have called in to make the decision to follow Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.***



*“Our programme of teaching and discussion has also resulted in the planting of three churches in Muslim-dominated villages.*



*“More recently, the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a curfew, and the hour-long broadcast has been moved from 8:00 pm to 6:30 pm so our presenters can make it back to their homes. In fact, pastors have been sensitizing the public regarding COVID-19 in the on-air discussions.”*

— Rev Sylvester Rogers

### **EFSL member church pastors sensitising the public about Covid-19**

Rev Sylvester Rogers co-ordinates both the radio programme and the work of EFSL in the south. He expresses his thanks to God for the support they are receiving through Support EFSL, and prays for God’s blessing in the lives of the supporters.

## EFSL Strategy for 2021-2025

The EFSL leadership are in the process of finalising the alliance's strategy for 2021-2025. This may sound a little dry, but is important, by placing all before the Lord, to reflect, review, and reaffirm the aims and priorities of EFSL for the future in a changing world. Doing this, it will remain true to its stated values:

**'Whilst maintaining the ethos of the Christian faith, EFSL strives to serve its members and communities in a professional way and with the love of Christ through the following: Humanitarian, Advocacy, Evangelism, Convention, Experience sharing, Commitment, Conviction, Leadership, Unity, Fair play, Stewardship, and Compassion.'**

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### Please continue to pray and give thanks for:

- **Continued guidance, wisdom, and unity for Rev Jonathan Titus-Williams and all the leaders of EFSL, as they agree and implement their strategy for 2021-2025.**
- **All involved in the EFSL radio ministry, and that through it more people will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.**
- **Continued relative low levels of Covid-19 and its eventual eradication from Sierra Leone, and the protection of the Lord's Church in Sierra Leone at this time.**
- **Continued health and strength for Bill and Jan Roberts and their family.**

**'Yet I am always with You; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterwards you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.' Psalm 73:23-26.**

May God's many blessings be with you this Christmas and always,

**Steve Manktelow**

*Support EFSL Treasurer*

*In addition to your prayers, if you want to give to EFSL so that it can continue to support the churches and people in Sierra Leone, please send your gifts to the Support EFSL Treasurer: **Steve Manktelow**, Blackdown Cottage, Willand, Devon, EX15 2QH.*

*E-mail: [manktelowsteve@gmail.com](mailto:manktelowsteve@gmail.com). Cheques can be made out to **Support EFSL (no.1141005)**.*

*Or, you can donate instantly through the website: [Donate Now](#).*

