



## Dear praying friends,

Recently I picked up a book I have not read for many years: 'Discipleship' by Rev David Watson. Young or old, weak or strong, as disciples of Jesus there are a number of ways in which we are called to follow him, not least we are called to serve. 'The needs of the world are vast. God in His love longs to reach out to all those who, inwardly or outwardly are crying out for help; but He has chosen to work primarily through the disciples of Jesus.' Not least as part of our service as disciples is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was a theme picked up at the EFSL BGA (see below). **Psalm 78 verse 4: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done.'**

## Wellington Fire Disaster Impact Mitigation Project

On Friday night the 5th November 2021, an accident involving a dumper truck running into a tanker truck loaded with petrol fuel at the Old Wharf Junction in Wellington in the east of Freetown left petrol spilling from the tanker. Residents and passers-by tried to cart away the leaking petrol when a spark triggered an explosion that led to the loss of about 100 human lives, and also much property. The Old Wharf Junction is a small-scale commercial centre leading to the densely populated Old Wharf community. The junction serves as a place where people cluster to



catch buses, taxis, and motorbikes, and to transact business. It is normally a heavy traffic-prone area in the morning and evening hours of the day. Ninety-four persons died on the spot, and several others have since died from their burns. Many have already been buried in a national mass burial ceremony. Despite the efforts of government and aid agencies, many survivors who have lost their homes are either sleeping rough, staying with neighbours, or

within the available open spaces at the health centres, placing an additional need on local services. School-going children have lost school uniforms, books, etc. and are unable to attend school at the moment.

The EFSL project aims at meeting the immediate needs of up to 30 households, including: 5 widows - women who lost their partners as a result of the fire outbreak, 5 surviving petty traders (with dependents) who lost their businesses, and 10 households of deceased commercial bike riders who were heads of their household. It will address their needs by distributing food, other items and cash transfers: a 25kg of rice to each of 30 household, along with assorted food items (oil, onions, salt, beans, & seasoning), 60 household buckets, and a cash transfer of SLL1.5M (£111)

each for 30 households to support a business start-up. In the medium and long term, the project will contribute to mitigating the economic and social impacts that are associated with the fire outbreak. Also, EFSL will engage with organisations such as the Freetown Fire Force and the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority to ensure vulnerable communities are aware of the need to adopt good practices that prevent fire outbreak and even being victims of fire outbreaks in the future.





## EFSL Biennial General Assembly (BGA)

EFSL's BGA was held in September in the southern town of Bo and attended by 250 delegates representing EFSL members across Sierra Leone. The theme for the conference, based on Psalm 78:4-6, was 'Raising the Next Generation'. As well as listening to the Word of God, the delegates elected new EFSL Board Members and a new General Secretary.

### New EFSL Board Members:

Rev Shrodankeh Johnson, President; Rev John Bamihoma, Vice President; Rev Sola Jegede, Treasurer; Rev Dr. Kargbo, Regional Representative (North/Kono); Rev Sylvester Rogers, Regional Representative (South/East); Rev Abraham Filex Turay, Regional Representative (Western Area); Rev Mrs Juliana Walker; Rev Mrs. Florence Kanau; Rev Christian Fayia; and Rev Thomas Coker.



### Pastor Gadiru Bassie, the new EFSL General Secretary

At the BGA Pastor Gadiru Bassie was appointed as the new EFSL General Secretary. He is 52 years old, married to Margaret, and has four children (two girls and two boys). Their eldest son is a pastor serving with Mt Sanai Ministries in Freetown. Pastor Gadiru was born and raised by Muslim parents who prevented him from going to church. But by the grace of God, Gadiru accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Saviour in 1998 through door to door evangelism by Hannah, wife of Rev Timothy Kettor, senior pastor at Calvary Free Pentecostal Church in Freetown. He is currently serving as an assistant pastor at the church. Gadiru has worked at EFSL for 16 years in a variety of capacities – most recently as Team Leader Education and Water Sanitation and Hygiene.



### Please continue to pray for:

- The fire disaster victims and their families, and the relief efforts of EFSL, the Sierra Leonean Government, and other aid agencies;
- Pastor Gadiru Bassie, the new General Secretary, and the new Board Members as they lead EFSL, that God will equip them as they serve the churches and Christian ministries of Sierra Leone;
- Continued strengthening and equipping of rural pastors in their commitment to spread the Good News across Sierra Leone;
- Ongoing protection for Muslim Background Believers as they continue to study, work and witness;
- All involved in the EFSL radio ministry, and that through it more people will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; and
- Continued health and strength for Bill and Jan Roberts and their family.

**'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.'** James 1:27.

### Steve Manktelow, Support EFSL Treasurer

*In addition to your prayers, if you wish 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](#) Please indicate clearly if you wish your donation to be used to **support a specific work of EFSL** e.g. radio ministry, bikes for pastors, study bibles for pastors, sewing machines, church roofs, support to Muslim Background Believers, fire disaster project etc.*