



Love Sierra Leone News November 20

Charity Number 1157847

www.lovesierraleone.org

Trustees: Richard Bayfield, Rev David Bendor-Samuel, Ian Gill, Norm Robins

Dear Friends

Pastor Yatta recently wrote that “Covid 19 came and is gradually going, fortunately none of my family and church members had been affected by Covid”. Although, “I lost some close friends.” Sadly, Pastor James MacCarthy passed away in June due to cancer, Sarah, his widow has sent thanks for the modest grant sent to her family. In Sierra Leone there was a 6-month lockdown and Churches are now open again, albeit with restriction and conditions. In comparison to the UK, the Covid rates in Sierra Leone are low (74 deaths and 2368 cases, in the 8 million population). However, while the news on Covid is broadly good, Covid has created other challenges.

The World Health Organisation recently highlighted the problem of “Food Insecurity” in Sierra Leone being a risk to Covid containment because people cannot stay home if they have nothing to eat. Furthermore, the pandemic has made access to high-quality nutrition even more difficult than usual, according to Freetown Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr. That is why the Freetown City Council has been working with partners to bring healthy, nutritious food to its citizens during the pandemic.



The [World Health Organisation](#) highlights that 30% of Freetown’s 1.2 million residents have an available family income of less than \$1 per day and 47% do not have direct access to running water. In Sierra Leone, the sheer scale of the food insecurity challenge was highlighted in a national survey carried out in April, where only 12% of respondents answered they could gather food for one week or more, while 60% said they could not sustain ‘lockdown’ or movement restrictions for more than three days at a time.



This is one of the key areas of Pastor Yatta’s ministry. We sent a £4,000 Covid grant earlier this year and Yatta wrote “I was really happy and grateful to God for the money I received from you to help and serve our people and communities”. This was by helping with water, food, soap and helping with Covid protection gear. It went a long way!





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Some of you will know of David Sandi who runs Ahkom School and Technical/Vocational centre in Kono. David is also the leader of the [RightToRead](#) programme which through the generosity of one donor has recently expanded to 6 more schools in the area. Whilst the work of Right to Read has always been part of Love Sierra Leone, Ahkom school has hitherto been a separate charity. However, because of significant overlap in both Trustees and objectives, Ahkom charity is now in the process of merging into Love Sierra Leone. To demonstrate this new joined up approach we have a new fundraiser initiated by Diana Snape to [raise funds for new classrooms at Ahkom school](#). On a practical note we are asking all regular giver to Ahkom to please transfer your standing orders to "Love Sierra Leone" (we will write to you separately). We also make clear that donations to Ahkom, RightToRead or Pastor Yatta's ministry are all clearly identified by Norm Robins, our Treasurer, to ensure donor gifts for specific areas of work are honoured.

Finally, despite the likelihood of a quiet Christmas in the UK we are looking to support a Christmas meal and presents for children (and perhaps some parents). As you will see below, in past years Pastor Yatta has worked with children in Freetown, whilst David Sandi has provided food and gifts in Kono. [We hope you may be able to help by clicking this link to support Christmas Appeal 2020.](#)

Christmas Meals for Children 2019

A message from Pastor Yatta:

"I say on behalf of the children I say a big thank you for providing the resources for the feeding. I want you to know that you are putting smiles in the face of the children. We change the method this year we took them to the beach which they like and enjoyed so much. They had the opportunity to play, swim and eat....

Many of them are coming from a Muslim home and a struggling home to survive. This feeding program is a big blessing to them. Which they look forward to every year. We went to the beach at 9 am and return at 6 pm. They ate three meals that day. They really enjoyed it. Thank you Thank you Thank you."



And from David Sandi who arranged a meal at Ahkom School:

"Many thanks for your support. Around 300 kids from all sectors of the school were there. They enjoyed music, performances, games, and music. God bless."

Richard Bayfield
Chair