



Love Sierra Leone News September 2023

Charity Number 1157847

www.lovesierraleone.org

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

News from Pastor Yatta

The ministry is led by Pastor Yatta Samura who has been a friend of St Andrews for over 20 years. Pastor Yatta's Christian faith developed as an Adult having been brought up within the Muslim community. We recently spoke with him about his fears for the Country following the tarnished Presidential election in June:

1. My worries are about the violent protests on the Streets and the indiscriminate acts of terror, including shootings. It is frightening for everyone, and the tension is high. We leaders are being called to act as Peacemakers. If this tension continues the country may be going back towards civil war and many of us remember the terrors of the civil war some 25 years ago.
2. The protestors are on the streets because they are hungry. Our staple food is rice. Two years ago a pound sterling would buy 3 Kilos of rice, now a pound buys one Kilo of rice and many people cannot cope with this inflation.
3. The Presidential election in June is now being seen as "manipulated." This was a backward step for Sierra Leone as we have had democratic elections in recent years. On the 1st September, the BBC reported that "*The US government has announced that it will not issue visas to Sierra Leone officials who undermined elections held in the West African nation in June.....Individuals who had intimidated voters, election observers or civil society organisations or violated or abused human rights in Sierra Leone would also be denied US visas*".

In the discussion Pastor Yatta went on to be thankful for the growth of the Mission with a record 1300 members of the 6 churches across Freetown and Kono. The churches are planning a 25th anniversary celebration in November of this year. There is an open invitation to anyone from St Andrews to visit, but Pastor Yatta recognises that safety is a major concern at present.

PRAYERS

1. For peace, for justice and for fairness to prevail.
2. For food for the nation.
3. For safety.
4. For financial support for the Ministry.