

# Christian Community Church

## Mission Sierra Leone

### Pastor Yatta Samura



## HOW THE CHURCH STARTED

I came to Christ in 1977 from a Muslim background. My entire family were Muslim. I was in a field playing football and some guys from a church walked in and requested to talk with us. My friends gave their attention but I refused because I claimed to be a Muslim. I heard my friends asking questions so I went close to ask a question, but when I got there I heard them say let us pray. I joined the prayers without knowing what they were praying for. A few days later they visited me and they realised that I was the leader of the group. They shared Christ with me, they spoke about sin, death and the love of God and the need for me to give my life to Christ. I prayed that day and asked Jesus into my heart as my personal Saviour and Lord. That is when they started inviting me to church. At the church I went through a Christian Principle and Discipleship training. After 8 years in the church I got a call of God into full time Ministry. I then decided to go to bible college. Upon graduation I went as a pastor of the Christians In Action church where I served for 12 years. There I developed a passion for evangelism, church planting and sports evangelism. The church was not ready for this, so I resigned and started Christian Community Church Mission Sierra Leone (C3MSL) in September 1998. Our first church was the Central Community Church in Freetown with 43 people.

Our vision is to “Preach the word, reach the world” - Matthew 28:19-20, where the love of God is demonstrated.

## MISSION

Our mission is evangelism, discipleship, church planting, community development and sports evangelism.

**Evangelism:** Bringing people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Everyone in our congregation should be involved in outreach - the mandate of Mathew 28:19–20.

**Discipleship:** To strengthen the faith of new believers and to establish them in the faith, following 2 Timothy 2:2.

Church planting: Since starting the Central Community Church we have planted 8 new churches

- Central Community Church in Freetown now has a congregation 160 with a pastor and 2 assistants
- Grace Community Church in St Godrich Mambo with a congregation of 135
- Koidu Community Church in Kono with a congregation of 265
- St. Andrew Community Church in Kono (Meama) with a congregation of 150
- Sawolla Community Church in Kono with a congregation of 150
- Kangama Community Church in Kono 50 people
- Meide Community Church in Kono 60 people
- Codama Community Church in Kono 50 people
- Kenekor Community Church in Kono 70 people

Community Development: Making ourselves relevant in the community. Helping with education – starting schools, providing school materials. Giving scholarships to less privileged children. Helping with health, including amputees. Running a children’s feeding programme. To work alongside government people in the community. Providing skills for those who do not go to school – sewing, hair dressing, carpentry, welding, etc.



Sports evangelism: A very effective method of evangelism, Churches are expected to have a sports desk in the congregation for the purpose of evangelism.

## SPORTS LIFE

Sports life Ministry Sierra Leone was started in April of 2000. It is a Christian Sports organisation where we use sports as a vehicle for evangelism and discipleship. We work with schools, churches, sports clubs, communities and jog for Jesus.

Jog for Jesus: We do this once every year on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. Thousands of people attend from all walks of life. We print T-shirts and sell them for people to use for the jog. We start with devotion at 2 locations and stop in major areas for prayers for the nation till we come to the end for closing ceremony.



Competitions: We bring churches together for competitions – an inter-churches football competition and an inter-churches athletics competition.

We work with youth for Christ (YFC) and Scripture Union in their annual youth camps.

We do fellowship and training with other denominations and churches.

Coaching: our coaches have various assignments with different schools almost every day. Just one season in a school brings out about 100 plus children. We do three sessions every day.

Community soccer coaching: We develop teams in various communities which brings together 60 – 80 children in each community.

Club huddles: We assign coaches to sports and football clubs for short bible studies and prayer.

Camps: Each year we run a 2-3 day children and youth residential camp for the purpose of fellowship, evangelism and discipleship.

## YEARLY ACTIVITIES

National Youth Camp: Christian Community Church youth from all branches meet in August for a 3 day residential camp. They eat together, play together, pray together and enjoy fellowship together.

National Women's Retreat: In April, women from the various branches come together for 2 days for fellowship, prayer and planning.

National Convention: In November, all the churches come together for fellowship, reporting and posting of pastors. It is a real time of fellowship. We do seminars, quizzes and singing competitions for churches.

XMAS meals for children: We provide a special Christmas meal and gifts for poor children in the community, one in Freetown and one in Kono.



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

I am the General Overseer and the head of the mission.

Senior Council: All ordained pastors. At the moment we have seven ordained pastors. We meet 3 times a year for reporting, projects and posting.

General Council: The rest of the national membership of the congregations. We meet once a year for national convention and fellowship.

## HOW DO WE GET FINANCE

30% raised by church tithes and offerings. The congregation are poor but people give as much as they can.

20% from friends of the ministry who make special contributions when we run programs such as Jog for Jesus.

40% from Love Sierra Leone charity in the UK. They give us monthly support to help us with pastors, programs, projects, and also when particular need arise, such as Covid and floods.

10% from special projects that we run just to raise funds. These could be musical, drama, or an outing to the beach for which people buy tickets.

## CURRENT MISSION WORK

We meet at the office 3 times a week, for prayers, encouragement and reports on assignments and planning.

We have school assignments every day of the week.

I work in churches with the pastors, including preparation of preaching and teaching.

I also serve once on a while on some boards and communities in the country.

Current social problem: The drug call Kush is taking over young people in our communities and the country. Sports Life is helping with that, it is a very serious problem killing our youths.

Local and national politics: I sometimes serve my country in various aspects such as peace committees. We have many problems that have led to civil unrest. I have been an election observer, chaplain to a political party and we also put together a team to pray for the President.

## VISION 2035

To build a church building in Freetown to house the two congregations, Central and Mambo churches.

To start a private school in Freetown to serve the communities and to raise funds to help support the Ministry.



To open a health center to serve community and to raise finance.

Start an agriculture project in Meima Kono district where we have land. To help us raise support.

To identify and appoint a leader to eventually succeed me as General overseer. To employ a national council director to take some of the work load from General Overseer. To get 2 more trained pastors from Bible Colleges.

To pray more for our UK partners to attract more supporters to the Love Sierra Leone Charity whose support is critical for our mission.

