



PATHWAYS INTO SIERRA LEONE

Sharing the Story!

CONTAINER PROJECT:

The Container has arrived at its destination! It is awaiting release from customs and the contents will soon be

Greetings! We're glad that we're able to take you, once again, down this trail into Sierra Leone. We're so thankful for the opportunity to share with you about what has been happening in the work being done there.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus used several tools that proved effective in allowing Him to complete the tasks that His Father had sent Him to do. The miracles He performed and His powerful preaching immediately come to mind as ways by which Jesus drew listeners to become followers of the Good News. A third way that Jesus frequently reached out to His people was through the use of story.

Whether it be fiction or true, imagined or real, story allows us to share our lives and experiences with one

another and allows us to become more closely connected. In fact, as humans, we depend on story because it allows us to share together in what it means to be human.

There's a story happening in the small, West African country of Sierra Leone. It's a story of hurt and struggle to a degree that very few of us can imagine. But, it is also a **story of hope**.

Come and share in this story. Be a part of it in whatever way you can. In the pages of this issue, discover ways that

God's mighty hand continues to work within Sierra Leone and why those involved there remain firm in their confidence that God will complete the work that He has started. Together, with the Spirit's leading, we'll be able to continue writing the story to its completion and **share in the hope being discovered in Sierra Leone!**



Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests for Summer 2006

- Pray for blessings for SL leaders—Alpha, Moses, Joseph and Christian.
- Pray that the borders will re-open to allow imported chicks.
- Pray that farmers receiving chickens will come to know Jesus.
- Praise God for supporters and volunteers in Canada.
- Pray that financial needs of the Project will be met.

WE NEED YOUR PRAYER SUPPORT

To be added to our SL Prayer request list (by email) please contact us at cvandijk@cvmcanada.org

God Works Through Avian Flu

Since the Avian Flu has been a part of the news so heavily lately, some of you may wonder how it has affected the Poultry Project. Some alarm arose in Sierra Leone since the flu reached several other African countries. As a result, it was difficult to sell the chickens and some were even given away to orphanages and other institutions. Nonetheless, for the most part, fear caused by the Flu has dissipated. The Project will be able to continue as soon as

the border is opened to allow for poultry importation again. It seems that, in order to prevent the Avian Flu from entering the country, **the SL government would rather support and encourage their own poultry farmers than import chickens!** This will certainly be a leap forward for the Project. God is able to work through even negative situations to bring about positive outcomes for those being blessed by the Poultry Project. For this, we are most thankful!



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Expanding the Kingdom

God is working in amazing ways in Sierra Leone to bring people into His flock. Conrad Van Dijk will testify to the numerous way he has seen God work through the people he has met and worked with to expand His Kingdom. **Since Sierra Leone is mainly a Muslim nation, the fact that more and more people are turning to Christianity, as a result of the various projects, makes God's presence in this place even more deeply felt.**

In the past several months, Pastor Albert Sam has led an Alpha program with the farmers involved with the Poultry Project. Initially, the 50 men in attendance were drawn by the offer of a meal at each meeting, but over the course of 11 weeks, the men truly desired to hear more about Christ. **Cell group meetings are being organized** as a follow-up and will offer the men an opportunity to increase their faith.

A monetary donation was given as

a gift by Meadowlands Fellowship Church in Ancaster to the church in Alikalia and was also used to bring new believers into the flock. The people were so deeply amazed and moved by the fact that such money was used by the town's (mostly Muslim) elders to set up a **lending fund**, that several came to Christ as a result.

Pastor Mansaray, who runs the Wellington Orphanage, was inspired by a book from a friend this past year. He was moved to host a three-day crusade in a soccer field next to their school. Each night saw 10,000-11,000 people. Conrad knows of **130 baptisms** during the week he was there at the end of May/ early June.

Indeed, God moves in mysterious and incredible ways! Praise Him that He uses the work of people here and in Sierra Leone for His good and for the furthering of His Kingdom!

Financial Needs Continue

We're so deeply thankful that the Sierra Leone Project has been totally funded by private donations of individuals and churches. CVMC supporters across Canada, church members in the Hamilton area, Poultry industry members in Ontario and Canada, and even a few donors from the US and the Netherlands have all generously supported this cause. A heartfelt **thank you** goes out to all our supporters. Without your help, the work could not continue.



will include a 4-WD vehicle, a need we've been praying to be met!

Wellington Orphanage: At the time of this writing, 61 of the 64 children have found sponsors! By the time you receive this issue, it is hoped that all 64 will have found a sponsor. Praise God! As well, a self-sustaining poultry and vegetable farm that will be used to supply food for the children is being established.

Administrative costs: these costs include travel by Conrad Van

In brief, here is where your money is being used:

The Poultry Project and the Farmer's Fund: The cost to establish one farmer with a crop of chicks and supplies is estimated to be \$500-\$1000 (for 100-200 chicks).

Container Project: The four containers of medical and educational supplies previously sent have been invaluable to the people. The cost of sending a container is around \$10,000. The next Container, in September,

Dijk to and from Sierra Leone several times a year as well as the regular costs needed to continue with the Poultry Project which come to approximately \$3,000 per month .

Beyond these wonderful gifts, there are a few other items that would prove invaluable for use in Sierra Leone, including a 2+ tonne truck and several motorcycles. If you are able to contribute toward these items or this project in any way, please prayerfully consider doing so.

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Equipping and Encouraging

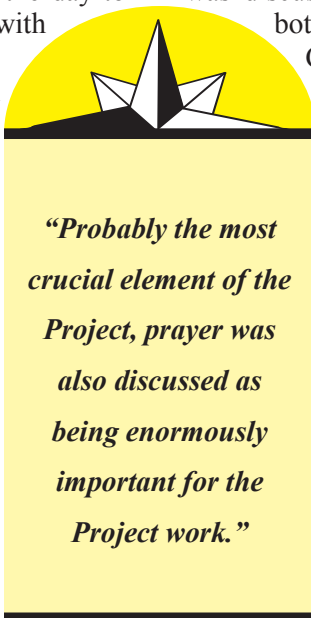
Conrad Van Dijk returned on June 2nd, from a 10-day trip to Sierra Leone, during which he was able to focus on equipping the team responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Poultry Project with stronger, more effective managerial skills.

The Sierra Canadian Humanitarian and Development Organization (SCHDO), if you'll recall, is the group headed by Alpha Abu and essentially responsible for running the Poultry Project. Since August of 2003, SCHDO has had a working relationship with Christian Extension Services (CES). However, as of April 30, 2006, this relationship has come to an end since CES is seeking to set up their offices in Kabala, in the north. This has left SCHDO to develop its own Non-Government Organization (NGO) status as well as its own office with much learning to be done by all involved.

Several key factors involving the management of SCHDO were reviewed by Conrad and his team in Sierra Leone during

this trip. The structure of the management team and the board were examined, the spiritual authority of the board was discussed, and the importance of communication both within SCHDO and between SCHDO and CVMC in Canada was emphasized. Probably the most crucial element of the Project, prayer was also discussed as being enormously important for the Project work. Several meetings took place and it is hoped that with this information, the Sierra Leonean team will enforce and actively follow the protocols and procedures that have been set in place, in addition to developing new ones as needed.

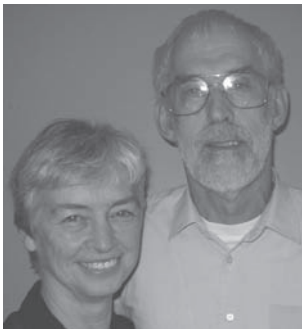
Since communication lines between Sierra Leone and Canada can be somewhat unreliable, it is in the management team's best interest to be able to run the Project independently. With this most recent visit, Conrad is confident that the management team is better equipped to do so.



“Probably the most crucial element of the Project, prayer was also discussed as being enormously important for the Project work.”

Why Sierra Leone?

Our Story... Continued... by Conrad and Anna Van Dijk



Our first child (Tracy) was born soon after we arrived back in Canada, in November 1971. Conrad had begun a one-year poultry specialization course at the University of Guelph and we wondered where the Lord would send us when it was completed. It ended up being Truro, Nova Scotia, which wasn't quite what I had imagined but Conrad wanted more experience in poultry practice before returning overseas. Our second child (Tim) was born there in January 1973.

During that year, we saw an ad asking for a poultry specialist to work through CRWRC with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Bangladesh, a newly independent country, formerly East Pakistan. After many discussions, it was agreed that we would go. We sold most of our belongings, shipped the rest to Ontario, and headed off with our two young children and 14 pieces of luggage in tow, not knowing whether we would be gone for six months or six years.

We arrived in New Delhi, India to find out that

due to an airline strike, our connecting flight had left without us. Thankfully, we remembered that our friends Bill and Grace were there as well, and we eventually tracked them down. They received us with open arms and helped us secure another flight to Bangladesh three days later. The MCC staff also welcomed us warmly but the director had bad news: part of Conrad's job did not exist anymore since the government had shuffled the poultry farms he was supposed to help re-establish and the new department didn't think they needed him.

A Southern Baptist Mission compound in Comilla became our home. From there Conrad was able to travel around to assess the poultry situation. We became very much at home and involved with the guest house for MCC workers who stopped on their way to and from their mission posts, with the country and the people, and we were starting to learn the Bengali language. But after six months, Conrad concluded that raising poultry was not feasible, due to the extreme poverty. The food shortage was so severe that any grain fed to chickens would be like stealing it from the mouths of the hungry.

So by April 1974, we were reluctantly on our way back home. But now what...? ...*To be continued...*

One Man and His Mission

MEET THE PLAYERS

In every issue of Pathways, we'll introduce to you a person involved with the work in Sierra Leone. The man you're meeting today is especially noted for his character and integrity.

Meet Joseph Katta. Joseph is a man very familiar to Conrad since they've known each other since 1969. At that time, Joseph worked at Njala University College as a poultry farm manager while Conrad, in addition to being a lecturer in the Animal Science Department, supervised the poultry department. Together Joseph and Conrad did much work expanding the poultry department and doing poultry-related research. When Conrad left in 1971, the two men did not necessarily expect to cross paths again.

But cross paths they did. Joseph and Conrad met again in 2002 after the civil war. Conrad discovered that the war had taken not only Joseph's job, but also his wife. When Conrad enlisted Joseph to help get the Poultry Project off the ground in 2003, Joseph whole-heartedly agreed. He tirelessly volunteered his time to make it a success. His jobs included the training and supervision of the farmers



as they were set up with flocks, as well as the supervision of the chicken slaughters and marketing of the same. Such commitment has rarely been seen among those involved with the project, especially in light of the fact that Joseph is almost solely responsible for the financial support of the eight people living in his home.

The most remarkable work done by Joseph, however, may not even be in the sphere of the Poultry Project. He has also been a driving force behind the establishment of the Alpha program in Sierra Leone. Coming from a Catholic background, Joseph understands the need for Christ among a mainly Muslim nation. When pastor Albert Sam indicated his interest in leading the program, Joseph was the man responsible for extending invitations to participate to all the poultry farmers he knew. The program was a success. The 50 men that were present for the eleven sessions have indicated their desire to hear and learn more about Christ. The next step is to follow up with cell group meetings.

Joseph Katta is most certainly a man of character and integrity. His love for Christ and his fellow man drives him to do all he can to support the progress being made in his country.

PRAYER , BRAINSTORMING and the LORD'S LEADING!

At a CVMC prayer meeting this January, it was agreed in prayer to ask the Lord for **\$1,000,000** for CVMC's work in Sierra Leone. Since then, we have had a few more prayer meetings asking for guidance and provision for the Sierra Leone work. We have begun preparations to apply for a grant from the Canadian Government and are **in great need of prayer**. The grant would be a minimum of \$500,000 and we would need to raise 1 part of 4 or \$125,000.

We hope to have more prayer meetings so if you are interested or have a group that would be willing to pray, please contact us. We'd love to show you some short videos of the Sierra Leone Project, have a discussion, and spend time in prayer.



Please prayerfully consider financially supporting the Sierra Leone Project.

Please make cheques payable to:
Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada
and use the slip enclosed with this newsletter.
Thank you!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CVMCANADA.ORG

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

All donations are tax deductible. Designated gifts will be applied as directed. If need is satisfied or changed, CVMC will direct gift to a similar need. Gifts will be acknowledged as received, and an official income tax receipt will be issued at year end.



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