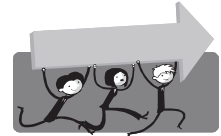




PATHWAYS INTO SIERRA LEONE

One Body, Serving in Christ



CONTAINER PROJECT:

Lord willing, the 5th container will be shipped as soon as funding allows!

Pray for the necessary funds, enough help, smooth sailing, and quick clearing through customs!

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests for Fall 2006

- Pray for the restructuring and planning of SCHDO under CIS and that the goal of setting up 1,000 farmers will be met.
- Pray for the health of SCHDO workers.
- Pray for the shipping of the 5th container of goods heading to Sierra Leone!
- 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

Hello and welcome to Pathways! The trails into Sierra Leone are continually becoming clearer as the accomplished work bears fruit. Thank the Lord!

August was an extremely busy month for the Van Dijk's as both Conrad and Anna made the trip to Sierra Leone. They remain aware that they are only two sets of hands among many in doing the work they've been called to. If you'll recall the story found in Exodus 17:10-13, you'll remember an Israelite battle whose victory depended on Moses, as the spiritual link and intercessor, lifting his hands to the Lord. He found support from two of his close friends, Aaron and Hur, who lifted his

arms for him when he tired. Each man—soldier, priest, and leader—had his role to fulfill if victory was to be achieved. And victorious they were! The same principle applies to mission work today. All of us have our respective callings to fulfill for the work to be victorious. While some are called to the front lines, support roles are no less crucial. In carrying out the work together, not only in Sierra Leone but many places around the world as well, many others will be able to experience the goodness of God's grace and love.



Brima Kanu and his family are beneficiaries of the Poultry Project.

Thank you for your role as supporters in various capacities! Without you, the work in Sierra Leone would not have found the success and blessing that it has to this point. May God bless you richly!

August Trip Highlights

During their recent trip, Conrad and Anna focused on the ongoing work of the various projects they are involved with. The Poultry Project was examined and reevaluated (which you'll read about later in this issue) while visits were made to institutions, including homes for the elderly and for disabled children, medical clinics, and amputee settlements. These were designated to receive donated goods from the Container Project. Some of these organizations also asked if they could have a chicken flock so they can

earn income and food for themselves. Aside from attending to their many duties, Conrad and Anna also had the opportunity to reconnect with some old friends and acquaintances from the past – some of whom they were no longer sure were even alive! They were also able to meet many new people, some with the most remarkable stories of having experienced God's grace during many years of hardship. Thank the Lord for joy brought to the journey!


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Prayerful Plans for a Great Future

If you'll recall from the last issue, the threat of the Avian Flu caused the Poultry Project to stall since the government placed a ban on poultry importation. At that point, the chickens were either sold at great loss or, in some instances, given away to orphanages and other institutions. However, the ban on live chicks was lifted near the end of Conrad and Anna's trip in August and thankfully, the Project will now be able to resume!

The long-range objective of the Poultry Project is to provide 1,000 farmers and their families with the means to support themselves. In this program, each farmer raises 100–200 broilers for up to two months. At a profit of \$0.50/chicken, each farmer earns \$50-\$100 for that two month period. In addition, the chicken manure replaces that which the farmers would otherwise have to buy in order to fertilize their vegetables and other crops. With good fertilization, the crops fare much better, allowing them to be sold for higher profit. The manure itself is also a

great source of income! **In all, the farmers are able to bring in over \$150 monthly, which far exceeds the income of any labourer, school teacher, or government worker in Sierra Leone!** The farmers are able to feed their families, pay school fees for their children, and obtain medical care. In the near future, it is hoped that layer chickens will be added to the Project. By starting some farmers with 50 layers, they will be able to collect approximately 3½ dozen eggs per day, which will **supplement their income even further!**

The potential benefits of this program to the people of Sierra Leone are, at this point, unsurpassable. However, the number of farmers that could participate depends wholly on the amount of funds raised. The estimated cost of setting up a single farmer with a crop of 200 broilers is under \$1,000, while a flock of 50 layers would cost about \$400. Please consider helping to fund this program. **Your donation will benefit the people of Sierra Leone more than you know!**

SCHDO is Restructuring

Some restructuring is taking place within the management and administration of the Poultry Project. The Sierra Canadian Humanitarian & Development Organization (SCHDO) who is responsible for running the Project in Sierra Leone, was formerly partnered with Christian Extension Services (CES) but this partnership ended last April. During his August visit, Conrad was able to form an agreement with SCHDO and Children Integrated Services (CIS), the umbrella organization for the Wellington Orphanage. CIS is an organization committed to professionalism, excellence, integrity, and accountability and SCHDO is looking forward to working with them in the Lord.

Plans are underway for the Project in Canada as well. At their Annual General Meeting, CVMC made a commitment to support Sierra Leone for at least another 5 years and a grant proposal is being prepared for support from the Canadian government.

Canadian Veterinary Missions of Canada (CVMC) is teaming up with parties from the University of Guelph and the University of PEI in Canada, and Njala University and the Department of Agriculture in Sierra Leone, to develop a three-phase plan to meet the long-term goals of the Project over five years. A successful proposal is hoped to bring in \$500,000-\$1,000,000, with 25% needing to be raised by CVMC itself. If all this is successful, the end objective is to see 1,000 farmers grow various crops such as chickens, corn, and soybeans as well as the establishment of a support complex which would include a hatchery, breeder flock, feedmill, and processing plant.

The scope of this restructured project is large and we ask that you continue to keep the Project and those involved in your prayers. With God's hand upon the work being undertaken, we're confident that it will be blessed!

Reconnecting

When Conrad and Anna were first in Sierra Leone from 1969-1971, it was normal protocol to hire house staff, often consisting of 3 or more people, to do the household duties. As their house was so small and they received only a volunteer's allowance, a young man by the name of Abdulai Kamara was asked to look after the garden, cleaning, laundry and some cooking which he considered a promotion from his previous work as a gardener.

He was hard working, diligent, honest and willing to do whatever was asked. The result was a very clean house, a well-producing garden and delicious African meals such as plassas (sauce) made from meat, peanut butter, spinach and tomato paste over rice.

Abdulai and his wife had a baby girl they named after Anna! He also looked after his younger brother, Ansumana who attended the Njala Experimental School where Anna taught and the Van Dijk's paid his school fees. In 1971, when Anna and Conrad left, they said goodbye to Abdulai and his family, not knowing if they would ever see each other again.

When Anna was preparing for this recent trip, she made a small album of pictures taken during their stay in 1969-1971 of people she wanted to reconnect with, including Abdulai and his family. She showed the pictures to many people but it wasn't until the last week end of their stay, when she visited Njala, that she found someone who knew him. Conrad and Anna were directed to the village where he lived but were told he had gone to



Abdulai, Joseph Katta, and Anna.

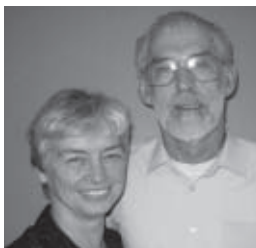
visit an aunt back in the direction they had just come from! So off they went again until they came upon a lone figure walking along the road. It was Abdulai! He had aged considerably and was almost blind with cataracts, but what a great reunion! In spite of being totally unexpected, he remembered the Van Dijk's and they had a great time reminiscing and catching up.

Abdulai had worked briefly with the next volunteers living in their house, but then took a job with Njala University's agronomy department as a labourer where he worked for over 30 years. About 10 years ago, he was spraying a chemical on plants and some of it had blown into his eyes and burned them. He was treated but in the last few years, his eyesight has deteriorated badly. In 2005, he had a cataract operation at the UMC Eye Hospital in Freetown but after three follow up visits, it was declared a failure.

It was learned that Abdulai's younger brother, Ansumana, works in Freetown for the Ministry of Agriculture, as a regional supervisor of extension workers. The next morning, Ansumana called very early and came to the YMCA where Anna and Conrad were staying. Another great reunion! Ansumana, now 45 years old, has taken on the responsibility of helping his older brother, Abdulai, which is normal in the Sierra Leone extended family system, as his sight gets dimmer all the time. Both Abdulai and Ansumana are Muslims but we do pray that they and the rest of their families will eventually accept the Christian faith.

Why Sierra Leone?

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



From April 1974, to June 1995, we lived in 4 different homes in the Shakespeare/Stratford/Tavistock area of Southwestern Ontario. Conrad had a Plan B- if our dream of working the rest of our lives in 3rd world countries was not possible, he wanted to be a pioneer in Ontario

by starting a private poultry veterinary practice, a totally new concept in veterinary medicine. Meanwhile, our family of 2 children expanded to 7, with the adoption of Supriya (1975) from Bangladesh, Sashi (1979) from India, the birth of Shanti (1981), and we received 2 children (1986) to foster for over 9 years!

Joys and challenges of all kinds marked those 21 years. We were heavily involved in the local CRC, setting up Stratford Christian School and fundraising, speaking to groups while selling Bangladesh hand-crafts for MCC, supporting SAWA (Stratford and Area World Aid), the Right to Life Association, and others! We both spent a lot of time on the road, Conrad to visit chicken farmers and Anna to drive kids to school, run errands as the office "gopher," and other volunteer activities. It was exciting, busy and difficult. Looking back we wonder how we did it all! In spite of frustrations, we know the Lord was with us, teaching us and preparing us for more of life's joys and challenges to come...

One Man and His Mission

Meet Pastor Mansaray. He has been

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 passion and faith in the Lord.

the only father that the children of Wellington Orphanage have known for most or all of their lives. As head of the Orphanage, he has spent many years ensuring that parentless children have a home, food, clothes, and an education. He has done this completely trusting in God who has led him through even the darkest valleys. Pastor Mansaray is eager to get involved in whatever he can to provide help and relief to his fellow countrymen. Often taking on more than one man can possibly handle alone, Pastor Mansaray, time and time again, demonstrates his heart and passion for his people.

More recently, it was he who agreed to partner his organization, CIS, with SCHDO in order to move the Poultry Project ahead. His involvement



Pastor Mansaray & a child amputee.

in the Container Project is also evident by the way he eagerly involves himself in deciding how the goods ought to be distributed. He, his staff, and the Wellington children have recently started a ministry at the Newton Amputee community through small groups and ministering to the needs of the amputees. One evident need was for a common building for the community. Inspired, Pastor Mansaray quickly donated the iron walls and roof of Wellington's primary school since it was being replaced by a larger building (a church/school combination).

So much of what Pastor Mansaray does is, some might think, a leap of faith. He sees a need and, without thinking twice, dives in and commits himself entirely to the cause. Indeed, this may be a leap of faith to some. But, seeing him live out passion and desire

within his heart, one realizes that this can't be anything else but Christ's love shining through one man.

THANK YOU to the sponsors of the children of Wellington Orphanage! In August, each child received a package from their sponsor and they were thrilled! By now, each sponsor should have received a note from their child in return. What a wonderful opportunity to begin forming a relationship with a child across the world!

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 or your group would be willing to pray or host a presentation, 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!



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

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!



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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