



PATHWAYS INTO SIERRA LEONE

September 2010

Volume 6 Issue 2

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests Fall 2010

- Pray for healing of the land of Sierra Leone
- Pray for alleviation of poverty
- Pray that SCHDO will truly be agents of change in Sierra Leone
- Pray for expansion of the Poultry Project
- Pray for funds through the Chickens for Christmas campaign and other ways
- Pray for the Wellington Orphanage and other Ministries
- Pray for the Polio victims and war victims of Sierra Leone
- Pray for the SCHDO managers - Alpha Abu, Joseph, Desmond and Michael
- Pray for the Alpha Program and the three churches led by Pastor Conteh
- Pray for fundraising for the orphan village house for the WO and NCN children

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

SCHDO: Agents of Change by Dr. Conrad Van Dijk

My path took me back to Sierra Leone on July 29th. I flew to Freetown (via Buffalo, NYC, and Brussels), so named for the freed slaves who settled there from Nova Scotia, the West Indies, and the UK. However, the people in Freetown are far from free—they are still slaves to the cycle of poverty. When I ask, “Why is Sierra Leone so poor?” I get reasons like corruption, laziness, the civil war, and a number of other things. But what actually is the answer? It becomes more confusing when you discover that Sierra Leone is rich in resources like diamonds, gold, and iron. The land is very fertile and the rainy season lasts for six months of the year, which is great for agriculture. It’s geographically located on the ocean and accessible for trade by boat. So, again, why is the country so poor?

An important part of the answer lies with God and we can seek God’s will, thoughts, and emotions from the Bible. Dr. Alistair Petrie has written a book called “Heaven on Earth: God’s Principles for Restoring the Land.” He researches revivals around the word and produced at least two transformation videos in the late 1990’s. Petrie talks about the need to change the spiritual climate in places where there are poverty and corruption: “the land contains products of blessings and curses from previous years and generations (see Deut. 28) and so the present day stewards need

to address issues from the past because they have a spiritual cause and effect.”

I heard a pastor say once that demonic forces are like rats at a garbage dump. Until the garbage is removed, the rats do not leave. So what are the demonic influences that are keeping the country so poor? It may very well be that the remnants of animistic beliefs, secret societies, blood shed from the civil war, a generation of living in survival mode, and the fears that go with that need to be dealt with.

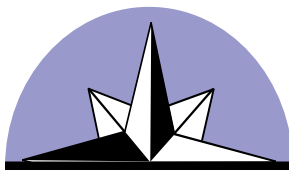
The solution to all this is to pray to the Lord of lords

and the King of kings to cleanse the land, overturn the iniquitous patterns, and to call forth restoration, multiplication and blessings upon the work that we and others are doing in Sierra Leone.

For this reason, the SCHDO staff in Sierra Leone meets daily for devotions and prayer. We had a special prayer meeting on August 11 when I was there. We spent a few hours in worship, teaching, and prayer regarding past generational sins as well as current issues and felt a tangible release.

We ask you to pray alongside the workers in Sierra Leone and ask the Lord to cleanse the land, bring a breakthrough against the powers of darkness, to shine His light, and that the people will see the truth and be set free and bring prosperity to their land.





Poverty *(from Michael Katta's article on Poverty)*

What is Poverty?

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and lack of freedom.



many disadvantages that collectively work in a circular process, making it virtually impossible for individuals to break the cycle. This occurs when poor people do not have the recourses necessary to get out of

poverty, such as financial capital, education, or connections. In other words, poverty-stricken individuals experience disadvantages as a result of their poverty, which in turn increases their poverty. This would mean that the poor remain poor throughout

their lives. This cycle has also been referred to as “patterns” of behaviors and situations which cannot easily be changed.

The poverty cycle is usually called “development trap” when it is applied to countries.

Breaking the cycle of poverty

- Income through self employment or job creation
- Root out corruption in both government and business
- Make education available, especially to marginalized groups (e.g. women)
- Improve government capacity to provide access to essential goods and services, including potable water, affordable food, primary health care, education, housing and other social services.

Causes of Poverty

- Geographical remoteness
- Environmental degradation
- Natural disaster
- Over-population
- Lack of education*
- Wars and political unrest*
- Diseases such as Malaria , HIV/AIDS*

Cycle of poverty

In economics, the cycle of poverty is defined as the “set of factors or events by which poverty, once started, is likely to continue unless there is outside intervention.”

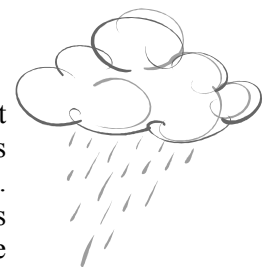
The cycle(s) of poverty has been defined as a phenomenon where poor families become trapped in poverty for at least three generations. These families have either limited or no resources. There are

Seasons of Rain and Drought

Sierra Leone has two seasons: rainy and dry. In April the rains start gradually, increasing daily until July and August when heavy rains can last all day long. The rains taper off till the dry season starts in November or early December.

Unfortunately, many Sierra Leoneans live in tin shacks, which are not totally rain proof. The wet conditions are unhealthy, especially for those who are already undernourished and prone to malaria.

Rice farmers start planting their crops as soon as the rains start. But the rainy period is also called the “hunger season,” as crops of rice and other foods are not harvested until the beginning of the dry season which begins in November or early December.



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Poultry Project: New Approach

by Dr. Conrad Van Dijk

It is important to celebrate successes, especially in Sierra Leone, so that you do not become overwhelmed by the monumental task ahead of you. One of the leaders of the current Sierra Leonean Poultry and Pig Farmers' Association declared a public thanks to SCHDO at a recent meeting, for helping him get started in poultry farming in 2003. SCHDO has helped set up over 100 farmers in poultry so far since 2003. Others have been given advice. Three churches have been started in our poultry farmer communities. SCHDO on the other hand, has been able to help numerous organizations and individuals with humanitarian help.



However, we have not yet attained the goal of setting up 1,000 farmers in a sustainable way. We pray that our new approach will do that his year.

I have already mentioned prayer against any spiritual defilement. We have a new approach to microfinance as well. We will form groups of about 10 farmers. When the farmer is set up with a flock of chickens on credit, the farmer will be accountable to the group for monthly

payments, as well as good care or management of the chickens. The farmers will be taught the importance of breaking the cycle of poverty, which includes saving of money and education of the children. A very important part is that the leaders of the community will be asked to attend workshops on the benefits of this program, and how the farmers will benefit the community, so that it becomes a community effort instead of the effort of individuals.

CORN GROWING



This year, a group of farmers will grow about 60 acres of corn! The corn seeds, sent in February's container shipment, will be planted in early September to be harvested in November or December.

This is a new venture and we ask you to pray with us for successful crops. The harvested corn will be used in the poultry feed!

United Polio Brothers and Sisters Association

Polio has been a major problem in Sierra Leone and a significant number of people have contracted the disease at a young age. As a result, there many disabled people on crutches or in wheelchairs, begging for money to survive.

Unfortunately, these individuals are not always treated well by society. For a population where 50% or more earn less than a dollar a day, it is hard to take on the added burden of caring for a disabled person.

The United Polio Brothers and Sisters is an organization of polio-victims for polio-victims. They help people like themselves get off the streets and make a living for themselves. The group received property in Kissy, a section of Freetown, from the government, on which they have put a workshop and a soccer field.

In the container we sent last February, we sent tools, welding machines, sewing machines, computers and other equipment to help them in their vocational training.

Over the last few years CVMCanada has helped support individuals, such as Andrew Kamara with

computer training, Agnes with crocheting, and Matthew with Bible school. It is wonderful to see this group of disabled people fight for their own livelihood.



Polio was believed to have been eradicated from 2000 until 2009, when new cases were reported. In March and April of 2010, a new vaccination effort was carried out to 1.2 million children under five years old, by administering two drops of an oral polio vaccine to each child. This vaccination program is part of a polio control effort in 19 West African countries.

MEET THE PLAYERS

In every issue of Pathways, we'll introduce you to those involved with the work in Sierra Leone. The man you're meeting today is noted for his sacrifice and devotion to eradicating poverty.

A Man and His Mission: Michael Katta

by Alpha Abu

Eight years after a brutal civil war which ended in 2002, life economically, is not getting any better for most of the people in this former British colony in West Africa.

The unemployment rate is at an all time high, with youth from the more depressed

regions moving into urban areas, particularly Freetown, in search of jobs which are just not there. Many social and political commentators are of the opinion that having an idle and unemployed young population is the biggest threat to Sierra Leone's peace. Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) like SCHDO, believe empowering the people to have a livelihood is key to a stable and prosperous Sierra Leone. Individuals working for such organizations give their time and effort to rebuild the lives of the impoverished people.

Michael Katta, 35, is one such person involved in programs aimed at improving the lives of the poor and needy. Born in Moyamba District in the Southern Province, Michael's parents moved to Freetown where

he attended both Primary and Secondary School. He then went on to earn a diploma in Business Studies.

Michael has worked for American NGOs CARE and World Hope and is presently working for a democracy building program. He also leads a 60 member slum dwellers group which is part of a parent body with headquarters in South Africa.

Being in the final year of his degree studies in Business Administration has not stopped Michael from lending his support to SCHDO to carry out the poultry project. He's currently busy organizing farmers planting corn and training the farmers receiving the layers on micro-financing and on how to manage their poultry business. Along with SCHDO and Dr. Conrad Van Dijk of CVMCanada, Michael is working to



make the poultry project beneficial to the farmers themselves and to get the project to be self-sustainable in the long term. Michael says he enjoys working with the people so as to "get them out of poverty".

A member of Winners Chapel Church in Freetown, Michael and his wife Isha, are raising two boys ages 10 and 5.



Our 2010 **Chickens for Christmas** campaign will soon be hatched!

Visit www.chickensforchristmas.com

and remind your friends to support impoverished farmers and their families in Sierra Leone!

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!

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