

MAY 2020 UPDATE FROM SIERRA LEONE:

“Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart-----nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.” (psalm. 91: 3-4,6 NIV).

Yes in the midst of the global Covid 19 pandemic, the psalmist gives us the assurance of God protecting us. We may have lost some love ones and some suffering in pain, we are re assured that God is still there for us.

We give thanks to the Almighty God for giving us this assurance of his protection and care.

COVID 19 IN SIERRA LEONE: Last Month, April I gave an update of the spread here in Sierra Leone, which was 124 confirmed, with 7 deaths and 21 recoveries. This was on April 30 when I gave that update. Today May 26 the figure has gone up almost six times with a total cumulative of 754 confirmed cases, 44 deaths, and 297 recovered.

This shows how rapid the virus is now spreading into our communities in all the sixteen districts of the country 15 have all registered cases, with Freetown the capital city been the epic center with the highest infection rates. Koinadugu is having two confirmed cases, we thank God all the two are responding and one is discharged from the treatment center meaning he is now free from the virus. Praise God for that. One person is still in the treatment center, she is a member of our church, but she is stable and the doctors are hopeful she will be discharge in few days’ times. We are all save the lady in caution has no any contact with other church members. She was infected by the first index who happens to be a family member that has traveled from Freetown.

HEREMAKONO CHURCH BUILDING: Despite the Covid 19 challenge , even though Churches are closed m but the people of heremakono are determined to continue with their church building project so that when the government will lift the suspension on congregational worship as the result of the pandemic , they will be able to have a place of meeting. They have now completed the wall [bricks work]

are now hoping to put on the roof. The rain is here already we just hope we will be able to assist them to roof it. Our challenge is the fund.



Heremakono, church under construction. \$900 needed for zinc, nails for the roof:

COMMUNITY SCHOOL: Firawa is one of the communities or village that we have a church and CES has also help the community to have a grain store , rice mill machine etc. One of the challenges the Christian as well as the community identified as a felt need is the education of their children. Even though there is a public school in the village but much is desired in times of providing good education. Hence the pastor John Kargbo, one of our TLT participants, came out with an action plan for a community Christian school name CRC Nursery and Primary school. The success story is so encouraging. Though he started with using the church building, the population of the kids has increased and more space needed to accommodate an increased in the enrolment. Hence the community was mobilized and the chief donated a land for the purpose of a Christian school.

To encourage community/ parents participation, in the education of their children. The people where mobilized by the pastor to gathered enough sand for concrete bricks to be used for the building of a new Classroom. Seen their efforts and commitments without depending hundred percent for outside funding. The Education committee of the church approved to assist them with fifty bags of cement for the bricks. The foundation will be lay now and filled, then in the next dry season they will mold bricks for the building of a three classroom block. Same too will be done in Kondembaiah village.



moving cements to Firawa

village, for bricks.

CHALLENGE : As the pandemic continue to spread, many of our church members and the communities in the villages need more education on the virus and especially the hand washing facilities[such as the buckets, soap] ,the locally made face mask. Some of the villages we have visited to sensitize them on the reality of the virus, have raised this with us as a concern or a need. Today the Government has made it a must for everyone to wear the face mask especially in public places. The needs and the challenges to meet these needs are there we saw it but we are unable to meet such because we lack funds to buy those items for the people. Most NGO that comes around stops either Kabala town or few places nearby. Leaving out the interior.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Thank God for preserving our lives all at this pandemic time.
2. Thank God for our church members and their families.
3. Pray for one of our members that is infected with the virus as she is recovering that God will heal her and will continue to protect her family members as well.(Here Govt. is against disclosure of names of victims because of stigma, so I am sorry for not providing the name , but pray God will hear your prayers]
4. Pray for all that are suffering because of the virus globally.
5. Pray that God will help people to overcome the shortage of food as a result of the virus. A lot of market activities are affected.
6. Pray for our Children and family members in Nigeria, because of the communal crisis in southern Taraba. Pray for peace among the warring tribes.
7. Pray for funds to complete the multipurpose building here. Nothing much has been done because there are no funds available to complete the work.
8. Pray for the continued success of our radio programs that reach out to people during this time of the pandemic. Radio Shalom is a blessing to the Land.
9. Pray for volunteers who are going from village to village to sensitize the people on the virus, that they will be protected as well.

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