



Love Sierra Leone Annual Report 2020

Charity Number 1157847

www.lovesierraleone.org

Trustees: Richard Bayfield, Rev David Bendor-Samuel, Ian Gill, Norm Robins

Thank you

The first and most important message within this short report is to thank you, our Supporters, and our Trustees. However before going further we should remember Pastor James MacCarthy who passed away in June 2020.

The late Pastor James MacCarthy

23rd September 1957 – 11th June 2020

Wife: Sarah

Children: Emmanuel James 32, Gabriel Tamba 27, Nicanor 26 and Diana Kumba 11

Those of us who met Pastor James MacCarthy, pictured here in Kono in early 2020, have fond memories. He was a “gentle and outstanding Christian”. He was a humble man who exerted wide influence through his servant leadership. His faith was there for all to see. He helped pioneer the construction of the “St Andrews” junior school at Maima village in the aftermath of the brutal Civil war that took place 20 years ago.



I remember meeting James in November 2004 at the opening of the St Andrews school in Maima, Kono district. He told me that he was delighted to be back in Kono having been forced out of his home during the Civil War. Kono was the setting of the film “Blood Diamond”, which highlighted the war over conflict diamonds and the army of “drugged child soldiers”. The film accurately depicted the brutality and horror of the war.

James led a group of evacuees as they walked through jungle paths between Kono and Freetown. When he recalled the story, he was almost diffident about the risks of ambush by the rebel army as well as the natural hazards of the jungle. The zig-zag nature of the retreat meant they probably walked 2 or 3 times the straight-line distance of 200km between Kono and Freetown. In truth the family bore the scars of their 40 days in the wilderness as they lost one child along the way and they were not the only family to lose loved ones. Despite the family loss Pastor James recalled how he thanked God for guiding them through the dangers. James’ faith gave hope to all on that eventful journey. When food ran out and illness began to hit many in their party, it was James who encouraged everyone to keep going. It was an epic escape story of biblical proportions yet recounted with the modesty and understatement that was the essence of the man. He will be sorely missed by many in the UK and in Sierra Leone alike. He is buried in a quiet spot at the school he so loved.





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There are many Christians who contend that the word “love” is a verb. Many of us realise how privileged we are to live in the West. It is both humbling and rewarding to receive the thanks below for providing a Christmas meal for children. We are thankful to Pastor Yatta Samura for his multiple ministries to those in need, irrespective of whether they have a Christian faith or not, and to David Sandi for his ongoing dedication to Ahkom School and RightToRead.

Christmas Meals for Children



We provided money for a Xmas meal for children in Kono. Pastor Yatta wrote:

“The first time I shed tears when I see how excited and hungry the children are. We are to start at 3 p.m. The children started coming at 11 a.m. We cannot send them away we have to find something for them to eat and wait again for us to start at 3 p.m. People brought their children that were not part of the number and push them inside the

gate. The number keep growing. We prepared for 100 we had 152. We have to get the cooks to cook a second time.

Thank you very much to you our donors for given us the opportunity to feed and serve this children. It is indeed a blessing to us. Thank you, Thank you”



And from David Sandi who arranged a meal at Ahkom School: “402 children benefited from your generosity. They ate heartily, danced heartily and went home with gift bags. Merry Christmas all and God bless”

Education in Freetown

Back in September 2020 Pastor Yatta wrote that “most of our educational programmes have been on hold” since the outbreak of Covid in March 2020. He also wrote “we need to start again”. Subsequent events meant that restarts became common place as much of the world oscillated between lockdowns and opening up. In fact, much of the LSL support in 2020 was



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in providing teachers with a “subsistence income”, since there was no furlough scheme as such in Sierra Leone. One positive aspect of education was the Right to Read scheme which was successfully progressed “up country” in Kono district, under the leadership of David Sandi.

RightToRead

RightToRead (RTR) is a program that uses technology to improve English language outcomes for pupils. We started it in 2015 at Ahkom school with 100 children and added UMC Girls school in 2018 with about 400 pupils. This year thanks to a gift from a supporter in Oxford we expanded RTR to 6 additional schools in Kono. RTR now reaches about 1200 children. Start and end-of-year assessments continue to show 10-20% improvement in children’s English skills over the course of a year. Many other schools are eager to participate in the program. To bring a school online we need to provide a laptop and a TV for in-class lessons and we did not have funds available for this in 2020. Adults in the community have also asked for RTR lessons to improve their English. Again, lack of funds prevented us from making any progress on this front.

Ahkom School

In late 2020 we merged Ahkom charity into LSL. Ahkom provided support for Ahkom School and this is now being provided by LSL. Ahkom donors have transferred their standing orders over to LSL (thank you!). The trustees believe that having Ahkom school within the LSL fold will allow some synergies, e.g. broader ‘Sierra Leone focussed’ fundraising encompassing education, sports and ministry.

Financial Summary

Income in 2020 was £38,249 including £5,948 in Gift Aid. Expenditure was £36,647 disbursed as below. Our end of year cash reserve was £2,760.

- Christian Community Church £19,365
 - Church & Sports Ministry £12,940
 - COVID support £4500
 - Office fees (SL) £1144
 - Medical needs for pastors (SL) £703
 - Bank fees, etc £348
- RightToRead £11,483
 - Salaries, teacher training, IT support £10,075
 - New Equipment £1300
 - Bank fees etc £108
- Ahkom School £2404
 - Teachers’ salaries & sponsored kids £1290



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- New classrooms £1040
- Bank fees etc £74
- Note: We began supporting Ahkom School in October
- LSL activities £3125
 - XMAS meals £3000
 - Fees, etc £125

Effect of Covid



The [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int) highlights that 30% of Freetown's 1.2 million residents have an available family income of less than \$1 per day and 47% do not have direct access to running water. In Sierra Leone, the sheer scale of the food insecurity challenge was highlighted in a national survey carried out in April, where only 12% of respondents answered they could gather food for one week or more, while 60% said they could not sustain 'lockdown' or movement restrictions for more than three days at a time. This is one of the key areas of Pastor Yatta's ministry. We sent a £4,000 Covid grant earlier this year and Yatta wrote "I was really happy and grateful to God for the money I received from you to help and serve our people and communities". This was by helping with water, food, soap and helping with Covid protection gear. It went a long way!

2021 Outlook

We continue to support the 3 strands of Education, Sport and Ministry. The act of helping our neighbour fits with our Christian perspective, although many of us ask whether we can do more. Whilst Covid has not (so far) been as devastating as in other parts of the world, the indirect effect has been to increase poverty.

We recognize we need to stabilize our support for our current commitments to C3M Church, Ahkom school and Sports Life. We consider that "stabilize" means knowing that we are able to support them for some months/years ahead. This would mean finding longer-term donor commitments and a contingency fund.

The full content of Pastor Yatta's and David Sandi's newsletters, other news and ways to support are on our website.

Giving

If you would like to support our activities you can donate online (one off or standing order) at www.lovesierraleone.org or by cheque, payable to "Love Sierra Leone". For further information please contact Richard Bayfield, 25 Davenant Road, Oxford, OX2 8BU, (01865 311800), email info@lovesierraleone.org.

Love Sierra Leone

Income & expenditure account for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Love Sierra Leone

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 2020

	2020	2019
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Income</u>		
Donations	32,301.52	22,346.50
Gift aid refunds	5,947.87	6,065.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total Income</u>	38,249.39	28,411.50
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Donations to overseas projects	35,847.90	31,640.00
Other finance charges	655.34	395.61
Other costs	144.00	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	36,647.24	32,035.61
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Net income	1,602.15	-3,624.11
Balance as at 1st January 2020	1,158.29	4,782.40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds at 31st December, 2020	2,760.44	1,158.29
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Represented by:		
CAF accounts	2,760.44	1,158.29
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,760.44	1,158.29
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Love Sierra Leone
Independent examiners report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Love Sierra Leone

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145) of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

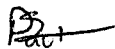
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Name:	P T Skinner
Professional qualification:	FCCA
Address:	30 Bankside Court, Stationfields, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1JE
Date:	15.02.2021