

Remand Home & Approved School

The question is, "Who is the 'Top Guy' this week?" We have started a motivation scheme at the Approved School, with boys winning points for good behaviour and cooperation. The flip side is that they can lose points for certain things resulting from selfish behaviour that hurt other people. The boys designed the scheme themselves with Francis, Sylvanus and Stephen, and they are doing well with it. There are still days where individuals score -4, but these are few and far between! Some of these boys have known little praise, and so to see and hear positive things is helping to heal some of their hurts.

Other questions in our work are; What do we think about smoking? Do we feel that God is interested in us? What does it really mean to be a friend? Is it right to have sex with your girlfriend? Who is Christ? The Bible studies are challenging the boys too, at both the Remand Home and the Approved School. Every week one issue is discussed. Scriptures are read, games are played, questions are asked. It is a blessing to see how openly the boys talk and and the maturity and responsibility they show to each other.

There are also girls at the Remand Home. Some are pregnant teenagers, others are girls caught in prostitution, but we remember that one of the sacred moments for Christ was when a prostitute anointed his feet and wiped them with her hair. These are all precious children to God.

The Child Development Programme

Along with our local partners, we continue to develop the 2-year club curriculum. We were encouraged to hear of stories from Kailahun. This is an area in the far east of Sierra Leone that has been badly affected by the 10-year war.

Many of the parents did not want their children to attend the Christian CDP clubs. However, teachers in local schools were noticing that the children who attended the clubs were doing better in school. One school decided to take 2 hours a week out of their normal timetable to run the club, so that *all* the children could benefit.



In Freetown, we are now working alongside 14 churches and organisations to run clubs. Other exciting things are happening. Another mission (Word Made Flesh) has run a childrens' club in Kroo Bay for a while, but they have asked if we can help train a group of street boys that they are discipling to work with them to facilitate the club.

It can be hard work maintaining some of the clubs. There has been a club at Thunder Hill for over a year now, but the boys do not always come regularly. Please pray for this club, that the boys would be motivated to come and that God's word would impact their lives.



Rainbows of Hope is a ministry of WEC International

Praise...

Praise for 'Christ Our Anchor Ministries' in Allen Town. Pray for Georgiana and Desmond as they reach out to their community

Praise for the team Bible studies on 1 and 2 Peter

Praise for committed churches and facilitators

Praise for the Bible studies at Approved School and Remand Home

Praise for the lives of the street boys at Lumley club

...and Prayer

For Matthias, Awutor, Jeremiah and Jina as they take the Parental Training into churches

For the churches involved in the CDP, that their commitment and joy would be renewed

For continued openness to God's Word among the boys and girls in the prison institutions

For opportunities to extend the CDP club programmes further into Sierra Leone

That we might remember our brokenness, and in that, learn to love with a depth that truly comes from Christ

That the clubs would be effective in communicating Christ's love to the children

That individuals and churches would see and respond to the needs of individual street boys and girls

Just another street boy...?

The Wesleyan church in Lumley has now been running the numeracy and Bible study club for 3 months. Attendance has increased and the club is now planning to move into the church school premises! But the club is not just about giving the boys an education. It's giving the children hope and a future. Let us tell you the story of Elhaji* and his brother.

Elhaji is from up-country. He is 16 years old. When he first came to Freetown he worked carrying loads for people to earn money to eat. He always comes to club and now he and his brother have started petty trading. He is starting to believe that he can make something of his life. Elhaji is a clever boy, but has had no opportunities. Please pray with us that the church or individuals would be willing to support Elhaji to go back to school.

* Name has been changed



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**Transforming the Nation
 One Life at a Time**

As Jesus was going down the road, he saw Matthew sitting at his tax-collection booth. "Come, be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Matt 9:9

Sometimes we forget how sacred each individual is to God. We forget that heaven celebrates the return of each sinner to the foot of the cross with a joy that is boundless.

So often, we can feel that we are only having a small impact, and yet, look at Christ's ministry. In this chapter of Matthew alone He impacts the lives of a paralyzed man, a tax-collector, a woman with internal bleeding, 2 blind men, a mute man. And he impacts a whole family by raising a young girl to life. Christ reached into these individuals' lives and they were never the same again.

Let us pray that God will help us to see each individual as sacred, precious in God's sight, deeply loved by Him and of huge importance in His eyes.

**Introducing two more members
 of theTeam!**

We would like to introduce our next two team members, Francis and Victoria...



My name is Francis Davies and I was born in Freetown. I joined Rainbows of Hope as a youth worker in May 2004. I work with the boys in prison, teaching numeracy and literacy and running Bible studies. I also do some office work and am involved in training. I believe that God has called me to reach the young people of this nation and I hope one day to become a youth pastor.

My name is Victoria Ediatu Samura and I joined Rainbows of Hope in 2004. I work with churches, helping them to run the children's CDP clubs. I live in Wilberforce village and am actively involved in the New Jerusalem Assembly of God fellowship. I would like to continue working with needy children, especially those who face difficult situations and circumstances.



Farewell to Georgie...

We give thanks for the work of Georgiana Kargbo, who in January left Rainbows of Hope in order to concentrate full-time on establishing the 'Christ Our Anchor Ministries' with her husband, Pastor Desmond, in Allen Town.

Georgiana joined Rainbows of Hope in 2003, and has blessed many people through her counselling skills and her ability to relate to individuals. As a team, we have all learnt much from her and appreciate all she has given to us over the years. We pray that God will encourage and bless her and Desmond as they enter into their new ministry together.

Parental Training

The first draft of the Parental Training is soon to be completed and then we enter the pilot phase of the project. The trainings will run from April to June in 2 churches in Freetown and 2 churches in Kailahun. Matthias and Awutor from Freetown and Jeremiah and Jina from Kailahun will be trained to run the programme at the beginning of April. Our prayer is that family life within the churches will be impacted by the programme, and that as this is expressed through improved family relationships, the church will be inspired to reach out into their surrounding communities.

Please pray for the animators as they work with the churches, and also that the programme will noticeably transform families. We also hope that during these initial trainings issues will come out that can be used to develop the curriculum further.