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What are we doing?

Rainbows of Hope continues to minister to children in crisis throughout Freetown.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs, we are working in the juvenile prison institutions in Freetown: The Remand Home in Kingtom and the Approved School in Wellington. The boys receive counselling, education in basic literacy and numeracy and opportunities for Bible study and spiritual teaching.

We are also working in partnership with EFSL and World Relief on the 'Child Development Programme', helping churches to set up and run wholistic clubs for children in communities all around Freetown. We have 5 clubs currently running in Devil Hole, Goderich, Lumley, Dovecot and Thunder Hill. Volunteers from the churches involved have been trained as club facilitators and are now running the clubs with a view to these clubs being handed over to the churches very soon!

What does our team look like now?

The past year has seen several changes in the team. Heleen van den Brink remains the Programme Coordinator for Rainbows of Hope Sierra Leone. Georgie Kargbo is doing more counselling and family visits to boys and girls in the Remand Home and Approved School. She is also having invaluable input in the preparation of a 'Parental Training' programme, due to start in January. Sylvanus French and Francis Davies have formed an excellent partnership working in the juvenile prison institutions in Freetown, while George Pat-Davies and Victoria Samura are energetically running clubs for children in crisis in different parts of the Western Area, as well as encouraging churches to get involved.

March 2005 saw the arrival of 3 new long term WEC workers. Hanneke Legters is from Holland with a background in social work, while Stephen and Catherine McGoldrick are British. Stephen was a computer programmer, while Catherine was a teacher. All three are looking forward to the challenges God has in store for them as they embark on their time in Sierra Leone.

It was with sadness that the team said farewell to Sjoukje de Jong in September as she returned to Holland. The team wish her all the best and pray that God will continue to bless her and use her powerfully in her future ministry.

Thought for the Quarter **Matthew 14:25-29**

What would have been your reaction if you'd been in the boat? Terror? Amazement? Surprise? Disbelief? Yet Peter speaks those immortal words of faith, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water". A single word from Jesus and Peter steps out of the boat.

That is still the challenge to believers today. Will we listen to Jesus and obey his call, even when the act seems impossible? Do we really have faith that "with God, all things are possible" (Mark 11:27)?

In our ministries we sometimes have to step out in faith; being obedient to God's call even when we cannot see the results – after all, the Bible teaches us that faith is being sure of what we hope for, not just what we see.

Remand Home & Approved School

A 15 year old boy writes his name for the first time. Eight boys go forward to commit their lives to Christ after seeing the Jesus film in Krio. These are just a couple of the highlights of the past few months at these institutions.

In July, we worked with IMC to show the Jesus film in Krio at both the Remand Home and Approved School. With a big screen, crisps and refreshments, the boys and staff enjoyed a good afternoon. IMC gave a clear message and several boys and one staff member gave their lives to Christ. Followup discussions and Bible studies have proved fruitful. We hope that the foundation laid in the few weeks following this event make a lasting difference to the boys lives.

After a weeks intensive training at the beginning of September, our staff are now teaching a comprehensive numeracy course* To the boys in the two institutions. The boys are already showing great enthusiasm! We are currently developing a literacy course that can also be taught to the boys. This is quite a challenge as the boys come with all manner of school backgrounds – still, God's grace and a sense of humour are a great help!

As well as devotional Bible studies, counselling and 'fambul talk' Rainbows of Hope staff are also starting to trace and visit families of the inmates.

* Thanks to Ibrahim Bangura of Mercyships New Steps for providing the original Numeracy curriculum outline which we were able to adapt for teaching to teenagers.

Wi Don Kam!

This is the first line of the club anthem, composed by the staff running the clubs, and now known by children attending the clubs all around Freetown!

In May we held our first week long training for the facilitators, chosen by the different churches to run the clubs. They worked hard and all involved enjoyed the stimulating teaching! We are blessed to have a group of facilitators who have a heart for the children they serve, and we pray that God will really encourage them as they develop their club ministry.

The Freetown staff also enjoyed a visit to Kailahun, to learn from the staff there, who have already been running the clubs for over a year now.

The work is not without challenges, and right now we are praying about the next phase of our work. We look at the poorest areas of Freetown and think, "This is where Christ would work", but we need churches to partner us in ministering to these areas. Please pray that such churches would be raised up!

With EFSL and World Relief we are now developing the child club curriculum further, but we are also working on clubs for both teenagers, and also parents! It feels an overwhelming task sometimes, but God has called Rainbows into this ministry and so we will offer all we can.

Praise...

Praise God for the provision He has made for children through the various ministries of ROH!

Praise God for Sjoukje's contribution to the ministry of ROH over the past 18 months

Praise for the churches involved in the CDP

Praise for the provision of 3 new WEC workers

...and Prayer

Pray for unity so that 'we may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6)

Pray for Gods protection on the team and all involved in the ministry

Pray for the boys in the Remand Home who gave their lives to Christ

Pray for the churches involved in the CDP, that the facilitators would enjoy the club programme and that churches would support them more and more

Pray as we look for churches to work with in the poorest areas of Freetown

What next?

We feel that Rainbows of Hope SL is entering a new phase. We continue to find excitement in the work God is enabling us to do in the clubs and also in the Remand Home and Approved School. However, we believe God is calling us to do a new thing.

As yet, we do not know what that 'new thing' will be, but with new workers being called here, we will take time to wait on God and hear what He has to say about the future ministries of Rainbows of Hope in Sierra Leone.

**Rainbows of Hope is a ministry of
WEC International**

