

### Remand Home & Approved School

Sylvanus and Francis continue to work with the boys in these institutions. On Mondays they run a wholistic club and also do group and one-to-one counselling; on Wednesdays they teach numeracy; and on Fridays they run a Bible study and discussion.

We have now been running the Numeracy course for 4 months and already we are able to see the changes in the boys – particularly in the Approved School. One boy, who had never been to school now knows his numbers to 100 and is able to do addition with carrying! It's a privilege to be able to work in the boys lives like this.

Through donations, we were able to buy benches and desks for the Remand Home, and the boys painted a huge banner for their new classroom!

The Bible studies are prompting really open discussions with the boys. They are able to openly discuss issues concerning them – smoking, money, sex, drugs, relationships – and then talk through God's response using Bible references. At the end of the session, the boys are still free to make up their own minds, and the Holy Spirit is left to work it out. Please pray that the studies give the boys plenty to think about!

Please remember Syl and Francis as they work with these boys week in and week out.

### Praise...

Praise for Matthias joining the team

Praise for the exciting new vision for 2006

Praise for growing unity and commitment

### ...and Prayer

For strength and joy working in Remand Home and Approved School

For the future of the boys at Approved School and Remand Home

For continued openness from the boys in the prisons during the Bible studies

For the new churches in the club programme – that they would grasp the vision to reach out to their community

For the Parental training – that churches would get involved and be transformed

For research into training upcountry

For good communication and cooperation with partners as we develop the new curriculum

### The Child Development Programme

Rainbows of Hope is now working with 9 different churches and parachurch groups running clubs for children-in-crisis around the Western Area of Sierra Leone. In January 2006 we will leave 4 of these clubs to be run and supported fully by the church. 5 new clubs will then start. One of these is being started by two churches together, with one of the churches intending to then start another club upcountry. Vic and George are both involved. These are exciting times! We are also looking into the feasibility of running a couple of residential training courses upcountry for churches to take the club programme into their communities – watch this space!

A major role of Rainbows of Hope in the Child Development Programme is in the area of curriculum development. We are contributing to the writing of a 2-year curriculum for children that will then be made available to the churches in Sierra Leone.

We are also developing a Parental training curriculum, aiming to provide support in parenting children from babies to teens using Biblical standards. This series of 10 sessions will be run first within churches for the Christian community. We then hope that the church will deliver the curriculum to the wider community, thereby being a channel for change and transformation. Please pray that the churches grasp this vision!

### All change at Lumley...

The Wesleyan Church in Lumley has been running a club for street kids for the past year. Their ministry has included a feeding programme funded by the church. Recently the boys asked for teaching in numeracy and literacy. Two volunteers have been trained and are looking to implement a programme of numeracy, club and Bible study in the New Year. George will continue to work closely with this club until the church feels ready to take on this new ministry completely.



Rainbows of Hope is a ministry of WEC International

### And Finally....

A Blessed Christmas and New Year from the Rainbows of Hope team in Sierra Leone



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**Freetown, Sierra Leone,**  
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### **Transforming the Nation through the Church – our vision for 2006**

In our last newsletter we wrote that we felt God was going to do a new thing.....

After a series of changes in 2005, the team went on a 2-day retreat to build relationships and also to seek God's heart for the coming year. The results are exciting, and we want to share them with you.

We believe that for the coming year our task is to empower as many churches as possible to get a 'heart' and 'hands' for the children of Sierra Leone. The church can only transform it's community if it has itself experienced God's healing and transforming power. We long to see the church in Sierra Leone grow as a God-centred 'extended family' that is a focal point in building and transforming communities.

Please join us in prayer as we embark on this new and exciting journey in 2006!

### **Introducing the Team!**

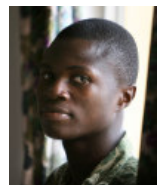
Over the next few newsletters we'll introduce you to individuals from the team, starting with Heleen and Sylvanus!



My name is Heleen van den Brink. I have been working with Rainbows of Hope in Sierra Leone since February 2003. My professional background is in child/youth psychology and counselling. After working for a couple of years in the Netherlands, I felt called into missions. In preparation for this I spent two years at All Nations Christian College in England. Over the past years I have come to love Sierra Leone and its people. I feel very blessed to be part of the Christian community in this country.

My prayer is that Rainbows of Hope will be an encouragement and inspiration to the Sierra Leonean church in their mandate to reach out in love to those in need.

My name is Sylvanus French and I'm from Mattru Jong in Bo district, Sierra Leone. I joined Rainbows of Hope in 2003, and am a Youth Worker. I work mainly with youth and children in the prisons, but also do some office administration, and am involved with training. I hope to become a church pastor in the future. Please pray for my studies at Freetown Bible Training Centre, that I would trust God for support. Also pray that I may get to know the boys more and more and that I will be able to use this experience in the future.



### **Welcome!**

Rainbows of Hope Sierra Leone welcomes a new worker to the team. Matthias M'Bayo will be working on both the parental training and the childrens clubs in the Child Development Programme.

Matthias is married to Marion, and they have 2 children. He has worked as a missionary in the Gambia prior to his recent return to Sierra Leone.

We look forward to Matthias joining our team.

### **Thought for the Quarter**

**'They asked Jesus, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other outcasts?" Jesus answered them, "People who are well do not need a doctor". Luke 5: 30-31**

Right from his birth, Jesus lived life with the marginalised – the lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors. Jesus was edged out of the synagogue, out of the temple, out of the city and out of society – yet remained totally in touch with the heart of life.

This Christmas, as we celebrate Christ's birth in such humble circumstances, let us ask Christ to renew his heart for the marginalised in each one of us, that we might be his healing touch on earth.