

# Update—Ebola Outbreak in Sierra Leone

## HARVEST PARTNERS

October 22, 2014

Matthew 24:33, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

The first case of Ebola was discovered in May 2014. No one imagined that the outcome would be so terrible. I truly thought that this would have been contained by now, however, Sierra Leone is in turmoil. Our schools and churches have been greatly affected—the **schools are closed and the churches only have limited services**. Economically, it is such a struggle and a burden for the citizens. A lot of businesses and places of employment are closed and so this has caused a tremendous need for financial help.

The **Monument of Faith Church (COGOP) in North Carolina** raised funds to help us in the financial assistance of all our senior Pastors and also to help furnish all our existing churches with a rubber container with water and chlorine for 'hand washing' for all attendees. Such a station will help in the prevention and spread of Ebola in our churches. The **West End Worship Center in Toronto, Canada** also raised funds during their Fall 2014 Crusade for the affected areas as well. We say a very big THANK YOU to these ministries.



Water and chlorine hand washing station at one of our local churches.

**The epidemic has caused the farmers to abandon their farms and places like the capital are now left without food.** The capital and most towns depended on the farmers from the villages and other provinces to supply them with daily food and vegetables. With this looming crisis, travel is very limited and folks have a fear of taking public transportation to get their supply out.

The health system is swamped with the demands to assist and care for those sick and affected. A lot of health workers have died and this has put such a strain on the system. As of now, none of our schools have been used as a medical center, but **it is no secret that things are getting worse**. Today, according to Pastor Issa, he saw three different places with bodies on the ground. **Hospitals are not allowing sick people anymore as all beds are full.** At the Connaught Hospital and P.C.M.H., people are crying for their loved ones to be admitted and they are told no way. The cry is for God to heal the land and for HELP.



National Overseer  
Levi Clarke, and wife, Floreth

There have been **deaths recorded in some of our COGOP churches**. On Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, we lost an inspiring, praise and worship leader in our Kuntoloh Church which made **12 from that family who succumbed to Ebola**. Her children are now in the care of the church as there is no one left in that family to take them. Even though there has not been a lot of our church membership affected by EBOLA, almost all have suffered the loss of extended family members. It is now only a few 'faithful' that will even attempt to go to church services because of fear.



One of the precious children left behind by our Kuntoloh worship leader—one of 12 family members who have been lost to Ebola. This little daughter is now under the care of Sister Benson, one of our members.

The reopening of our schools cannot be talked about as of now since new Ebola cases are continuing to rise. Even for food to eat, it is only W.H.O. [World Health Organization] that are managing to give our people an allocation of food, but **quarantined sick people are also joining in line to get food** which presents more problems.

**With schools closed, no food, and no money to buy rice and imported food [which is now very expensive], this has caused young and old to be looking elsewhere to find sources of food and money.** These practices are leading sadly to teenage pregnancies, plus the further spreading of Ebola. The citizens are in fear and some just simply will not report the illness to authorities. This leads to more folks dying everywhere without any medical help.

Please pray much for Sierra Leone that God will intervene. **Pastor T.Y. and Bendu are now sick and we ask prayers for God's grace on them.**

According to the latest report today from W.H.O. and C.D.C., there are over 1,250 known deaths in Sierra Leone alone, and many people who are ill with Ebola—some known and some unknown. As missionary overseers, we are so saddened by all this and feel such a great burden for the country. We are unable to make a trip into the area because of the outbreak, but please join us in praying for healing and that this Ebola will be contained and erased soon.

Submitted by:  
Floreth Clarke  
Coordinator of Ministries

Won't you consider how you can minister to Sierra Leone during this time of crisis? Prayers and encouragements are welcomed, and financial blessings will be deeply appreciated.

Please designate your gift of love as follows:

**Sierra Leone—Benevolence—Ebola Crisis**

Thank you in advance for caring, loving, praying, and for any financial gifts.

All gifts are tax deductible and  
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the need you specify.



helping hand

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