



## Sierra Leone Update



Georgiana Kargbo tells of her work in this poverty stricken region of West Africa

# REACHING THE DESTITUTE IN SIERRA LEONE

**B**efore coming to the end of my studies at the International Bible Training Centre (IBTI) I met with a World Evangelization for Christ missionary who shared about the work she does in war torn and devastated countries. She had a ministry called Rainbows of Hope working with children in crisis. She had just started a new work in Sierra Leone, a war torn and devastated land that has seen nine years of civil war – and my home.

I dreaded going back to a situation of no homes with families scattered all over the place, but the lord told me he was sending me back to work for him. The late John Wildriane helped raise some support from friends and few AoG churches in the UK to allow me to go back to Sierra Leone and work with my people.

### BEGINNINGS

I joined the Rainbows of Hope (ROH) team in March 2002. We worked with the marginalised, outcast and traumatised, including street children, orphans and women in the sex trade. Children's clubs were held in different communities and we visited juvenile delinquents in prison, shared the Word, advocated for them and relocated some back with families.

We also worked with handicapped children in refugee camps and we have raised funds to supervise the building of homes for them. The skills

we taught them included needle-work and catering, and later some even went into hair dressing.

We also worked with women in the commercial sex business, doing life skill training with them. Some did dress making and local soap making, and when they came to the end of the training they were equipped with tools to start a new life and many lives remain changed today.

### ORUGU

In 2004 I felt the lord ask me to go to a remote village call Orugu in the east end of Freetown. I had no idea what it looked like until I was taken there. Everything in me resisted going to the place as most houses were razed to the ground and people were just beginning to return and rebuild what was left.

However, I surrendered to God's purposes, moved into the community and traveled across country to work every day, five days a week. When I saw the needs of so many lost people, I felt the Lord's prompting again, and began a cell group which met twice weekly.

As our numbers increased, the people suggested we make a temporary building to accommodate the growth. There was no Bible-believing church nearby so they also asked we start Sunday services, This was difficult for me to accept but after seeking



the face of God I had peace in my heart. I shared this with the team leader and others who also prayed with me; they felt it was the Lord's doing so they released me to the ministry the Lord had called me to.

We now run a church in Orugu village with about 90 members excluding children. The community is Muslim dominated but some that we are reaching out to are secret disciples. Some come openly while others sneak in unnoticed by their Muslim family members. We sense the Lord at work in many hearts.

Our burning desire is to reach as many as possible, not only with words, but in actions. We have another cell group in the centre of Freetown which meets every Thursday and was on the verge of beginning its own Sunday service. As it meets outside, however, we've decided to wait until the rains are over.

Through the help of our partner in ministry, Watford Community Church, we have managed to purchase a plot of land where a proper church structure has begun construction to the glory of God. We are still trusting God for finance to continue as it has come to a standstill for lack of funds.

### EDUCATION

The Jewels Model Preparatory School was born out of what we feel is a God-given vision to aid the less for-

tunate children in Orugu. The only local primary school was destroyed and only those who could afford it could send their children long distances to school in pursuit of education.

Our school started in the makeshift building where we meet as a Church, but by God's provision money was raised to erect the first two proper structures. We are still trusting God for the final one to house three more classes.

We started with 25 infants in the nursery but the number has increased to 107, and we are expecting a large intake next academic year. Fifteen of these children who attend the school are sponsored by individuals in the UK at £12 to £15 a month but we have many more children who need sponsors to help them. The sponsorship helps us in the running of the school, paying salaries to staff – seven teachers a caretaker and a cleaner – and purchasing the resources needed.

### SEX TRADE WORKERS

I have a very strong burden for the girls and women in the sex trade, most especially in the east. These ladies are created in the very image of God but have been abused, misused and marginalised by society. Many are traumatised and in need of help, so I've started working with them.

My dream is to see them delivered and given an opportunity to come out of prostitution and make something of their lives. I would like to start a life-skill training class with them but need equipment like sewing machines and utensils for catering. Many of the girls are ready to do something if only they are given the opportunity to do so.

My prayer is that hearts will be touched with compassion for these destitute women. Twenty of them worship with us on the third Sunday of each month and preparation is being made to hire a minibus to transport them.

We want to be a channel to win others with what the Lord has blessed us with. May God continue to bless you for your prayers and support.

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