

Sierra Leone Report

5th - 20th September 2019

Ali and Lorraine recently returned from a two-week trip to Kailahun Sierra Leone with Roger London who leads the work of Watchmen International (WI) and Lifewater UK. In March last year Watchmen International was officially launched in Sierra Leone / Liberia after a very successful visit hosted by Maranatha Christian Outreach Ministries (MCOM).

The primary focus of the trip in September was to officially launch the Africa Youth Award which is another of the Watchmen International programmes, in Sierra Leone. We were also able to take part in the second half of an 8-day WI, Spiritual Transformation Training Programme and we were able to meet with the Maranatha team for updates on the work of MCOM.

After two long days of travelling we arrived in Kailahun on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon it was great to meet with the WI Sierra Leone / Liberia team who came to the guest house to meet with us and finalise the plans for our time in Kailahun. The team were very excited about our visit and were looking forward to our time together.

On Sunday, Ali preached at Adullum Bible Church in Kailahun and Roger went with Pastor Ken Fullah to visit the AOG church where Roger preached. It is always a real honour to worship with our brothers and sisters in Kailahun.

Monday was the beginning of days 5 – 8 of the STTP. It was great to share the teaching with the Sierra Leone / Liberian team who did a great job of the teaching, at the end of each day we had a debrief where Roger was able to feedback on how the teaching had gone, the team found these times very helpful and really appreciated Rogers feedback.

In total we had 35 Pastors and leaders who graduated on Thursday afternoon as always this was a very joyous occasion and they were all very excited to receive their certificates.



Saturday was day one of a 3-day AYA training where we had 6 leaders who were trained to lead the AYA. The training was well received and all were very excited about launching the AYA in their own communities. The training covered the 5 different elements of the programme, maintaining the authenticity of the programme by ensuring all elements are completed and all paperwork is correctly completed, child protection and opportunities for questions. On the 3rd day we visited a town around 20 miles away from Kailahun near the Liberian border where we met members of an AYA group and also some pastors and leaders who had recently completed the STTP. It was a great day and the community were very happy that we had visited.



Sunday 15th Roger and Ali preached again, Roger preached at Adullum Bible Church and Ali preached at the AOG church, it was a great opportunity to visit another church in Kailahun and the Pastor of the AOG church was very grateful that we had visited. It is great to visit churches other than our host church as we are working with many different denominations.

On Wednesday we set off on our 2-day journey back to the UK.

All in all it was a very positive trip and the team in both Sierra Leone and Liberia are very excited about moving the work forward, while we were there it was decided that the first STTP in Liberia will take place in December and January, during this time the AYA will also be launched in Liberia. Some members of the Sierra Leone team will travel to Liberia to assist in the training and the official launch of the work in Liberia.

AYA Update

Currently in Sierra Leone there are four groups running in Nyanyahun, Monosewallu, Buedu and Kailahun Town with a total of 65 young people involved. Below are a few testimonies



HAWA BOCKARIE is my name, I thought I could do nothing again, in my life, but with the intervention of AYA in my life, I decided to develop a skill of tailoring, now I have started helping myself through tailoring I thank God a lot for this Programme AYA.

Hawa is 20 years old and part of the Kailahun group.

Bro Dauda is 17 years old and is part of the Buedu group.

I want to say a big thank you to AYA, I was thinking that my life is empty, but with help of AYA, I have started a computer skill training and I am really doing it through God's grace.





This is Bockarie, he is 21 and part of the Kailahun group, he is doing motorbike maintenance as his new skill development.



Tamba James is 35 years old and he is learning carpentry as his new skill development.

Ahmed James age 25 from Nyanyanhun - AYA have added more value to me because I can now contribute in my community by voluntarily working to clean my community, and I have got a hand in the development of my area or town. God bless AYA.



Monosewallu Group

AYA will be launched in Liberia during the STTP in December and January.

It is very exciting for Maranatha Christian Outreach Ministries to be working so closely with Watchmen International as the work of both ministries fits together so well. The WI teams and the MCOM team in Sierra Leone are able to coordinate the work and WI can start groups in the communities that MCOM have been working in.

Working together is so exciting as we can achieve so much more.