



Sierra Leone Trip Update 13th - 26th January 2018

We have visited Sierra Leone many times over the past 9 years, each visit bringing with it its own unique challenges and highlights. Saying that, this trip was probably the most emotional one on so many different levels but it was also one of the most rewarding trips.

James E Fatorma



The death of Mr James E Fatorma

On the morning of Sunday 17th December we heard the devastating news that our friend and team member, in Kailahun, James had been killed in a house fire. James was in many ways like a son to us and during our time living in Kailahun he was the one person who was there for us every day ensuring we were OK and helping in any way he could. He was hard working, honest and reliable and most of all he loved serving the Lord. James death has been a terrible blow to us and to the whole community in Kailahun, he leaves a wife Feima and a 7 month old son, Michael.

James was in the process of organising our travel arrangements and accommodation, his death was only 4 weeks prior to us travelling so Pastor Ken Fullah, James' Pastor took over all the arrangements for us.

When we arrived in Kailahun we were visited by many people offering us condolences for the death of James and we spent the first two days crying with our visitors as they insisted on telling us in detail about the circumstances surrounding his death, we visited his wife Feima and baby Michael and we also visited James extended family in his village where further tears were shed. On Sunday 21st January it was the traditional 40 days ceremony in the village and it was nice that we were there and able to attend.

Please join us in remembering Feima and the family in your prayers over the coming months.

Ministry Update



We held our first meeting with Pastor Ken Fullah and the team and it was so encouraging to see their enthusiasm and excitement as they told us stories from some of the outreach activities that they had conducted over the last few months.

It was also a great privilege for us to be able to hand over some equipment we had been able to buy for the ministry from a grant we had received from The Norman Whiteley Trust in the UK. We were able to provide two laptops, a multimedia projector, a camera and other stationary as well as leave them funds to purchase a motorbike, a small generator and a portable PA system.



This equipment will mean they no longer need to hire these items which will cut down on costs for the outreaches, this will mean that they can do more with the funds we send each month.

New Jerusalem



This village now has a new name, its name up until October 2017 was Nya'ngahun. After our team visited and conducted an outreach here all the people wanted to become Christians and so wanted to give their village a Christian name, as a result the village was renamed 'New Jerusalem'. This village is about 7 miles from Kailahun town and is not accessible in a vehicle other than motorbikes, it took us 30 minutes on bikes to get there, they have no church in the village or any of the surrounding villages. A young man called Lamin was appointed as Pastor by the people and is being trained by an associate Pastor from Adullam Church called Pastor Paul, this young man will become Pastor of the new church in 'New Jerusalem'. Already the people have constructed a temporary stick structure that they are using to meet in and the town chief has given two acres of land to build a more permanent structure as they move forward. The village people have already started making mud bricks in order to build their church. It is incredible that they are doing all this on their own.



The temporary stick church built by the village people.



Generous gifts given to the team from the village people.

We were told that our team are now going to be working with the people of the village and will visit the surrounding villages and encourage them to come to church in New Jerusalem. We were also surprised to find that there is no school in the village and we were told that none of the surrounding villages have a school either. Maybe the new church, once built, could have a dual purpose and be used as a school too? Lets see what God does.

It was a humbling experience to be so warmly welcomed in this village and to have the opportunity to speak to the people about the love of our Lord Jesus. We were also able to pray for a lady by the name of Satta Sellu who had recently had a stroke and was now unable to leave her mud house, we met her lying on the mud floor unable to move due to paralyses down her left side. This lady used to walk 7 miles each Sunday to worship at Adullam Church and was our teams contact in the village. Please join us in continuing to pray for her healing.



Lamin the trainee Pastor at New Jerusalem



Pastor Paul, who is training Lamin



The people of New Jerusalem

Kambada Section, Kailahun Town



Date		Time		Name		Age		Sex		Status	
1	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
2	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
3	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
4	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
5	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
6	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
7	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
8	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
9	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				
10	1/22/18	7:00	7:30	Amara	45	F	Married				

A page from the attendance record for the midweek meetings

This is another group of people who have started meeting in their local community as a result of a Maranatha COM outreach. This building was donated as a temporary meeting place by a local Muslim man who wanted to help. (*Sierra Leone is one of the most religious tolerant countries in the world*). They do not currently meet on a Sunday but are now meeting 6 days a week at 7am and 7pm for prayers and worship and to hear Gods word. We were told by other Christians we know from other churches that they are travelling across town during the week to join this group of people to pray. The spirit of God is drawing people. It was an amazing privilege to worship with them, they are so full of life and enthusiasm for the Lord. What a blessing.

Elder Lamin A Ngobeh and Sister Fatmata Feika. The leaders of this gathering



Ngiehun



Brother Ellie Juma
Ensay

Ngiehun is a village seven miles outside of Kailahun on the main highway back to Freetown, it is more like a small town. We called here as we were leaving Kailahun to return to Freetown for our flight home. When I asked Pastor Ken what previous meetings had taken place here he informed me that this was the first time the team had visited this place. He had been contacted by a young man named Ellie Juma Ensay who had heard about the Maranatha COM work and wanted the team to visit.



It was a great privilege for us as we were introduced to the local chiefs and dignitaries who were very pleased to receive us. They rang the bell to assemble the people (an old rusty wheel) at the 'town barry', which is the local meeting place and people began to come. I had the great privilege of speaking to the people and then Pastor Ken made an appeal for those who



wanted to receive Jesus as their saviour. A number of people responded and were prayed for. We also prayed for all those who were sick and Ali prayed for the town chief, a lovely Muslim man who was blind.

Pastor Ken promised that the team would be back and they would come and show the Jesus film, he encouraged the people to start to prepare for the next visit by speaking to the local congregations to mobilise their people to bring others along to the meeting.

Moving Forward

So as I draw to a close, after reflecting, it is great that we feel positive about this trip and that the difficulties we had to face have not overshadowed the goodness of our Lord. We serve an incredible God and this trip has proved to us that when we face our difficulties head on, putting Jesus in control He does not let us down, His word is true and He gives us strength to face the things that seem so painful, the things we don't understand. I have realised that we don't need to understand we just need to TRUST that our God knows and He will sustain and provide, He will comfort and heal, He will guide and lead we just need to TRUST Him.

We are excited for the future, we have a great team in Kailahun with a passion and zeal to see the good news preached to the poor, to see the broken hearted and the captives freed and to see sight restored to those who are blind. Though it doesn't stop there. Isaiah 61:3 says '***They will be oaks of righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour***' It is not just about making converts it is about making disciples.

Can you help? If you can then please contact us through the contacts page on the website.

www.maranathacom.com

