

SERVING SIERRA LEONE

Through Operation Classroom West and other programs.

November,

2015

WE ARE BACK WITH LOTS OF GOOD NEWS

#1, AND MOST IMPORTANT

As of Nov. 7, 2015 Sierra Leone has been officially declared EBOLA FREE. It has gone 42 days without a new case. Ebola is still lingering in Guinea so caution is needed but the efforts of many, both locally and world-wide, has been effective. Extra caution is needed as Ebola seems to linger in survivors causing other diseases.

#2, HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Heritage UMC High School (HHS), and all schools, are open with a revised schedule to make up for lost classes. Opening in April through December for the 2014/15 school year, January through August for the 2015/16 school year, and opening in Sept. 2016 to be back to the normal schedule. No students or teachers were lost to Ebola.

The 3 classroom addition is finally being completed and will be in use



the next school year.

EXCITED STUDENTS/NEW BOOKS

#3, HHS FINALLY RECOGNIZED

In 2012, the first year Heritage students took national exams, HHS scored the best of all (30+) UMC

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Secondary Schools. They did the same in 2013 and 2014.

This record, with effort by UMC staff, has finally caused **the Sierra Leone government to declare Heritage a government supported school.** This means



the Principal and teachers will be paid full salaries by the government, and qualifies the school to receive occasional government benefits.

SUCCESSFUL HHS STAFF #4, SCHOOL FOR BLIND OPENS

The Kabala School for the Blind re-opened on the same schedule as all other schools. No students or teachers were lost to Ebola. Two former students, Poreh and Joseph, are attending college in Makeni.

#5, LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL

A visit in March, when Ebola restrictions were still in place, was depressing. Very little activity was taking place. A visit in late September revealed people back on the streets and roads at all hours, markets open, greetings returning to normal, a friendly attitude prevails but people are more aware. The resiliency of the people to withstand hardship is amazing and inspiring. Their fullness of life should be duplicated everywhere.

WHAT NOW?

Heritage UMC High School has received its reputation of excellent exam scores because of the effort of

Heritage teachers. They know their subjects well but have only been paid very small salaries. To receive the full salary from the government they all need to be certified with "high teaching certificate (HTC)". Only one of the teachers has this certification but the other eight want to begin classes. The classes cost \$200 per term and there are three terms. For \$600 they can attain certification, stay at Heritage, and receive full salaries. They should be rewarded for their effort to date.

The restrictions due to Ebola caused jobs to be lost, no planting on farms, and reduced cash flow for already poor families. The need for scholarships for students has doubled to over 110. The school fees for primary school is now \$55 and \$110 for secondary students.

CELEBRATE WITH SIERRA LEONE! SUPPORT THE TEACHERS AND ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS. PUT HOPE IN THEIR POSSIBILITIES.

Make your donation to Serving Sierra Leone, and mail to Serving Sierra Leone, c/o Hope and Les Law, 25271 Westridge Road, Golden, CO 80403. Credit card donations can be accepted by visiting the web site, hope4salone.org and clicking on the DONATE button. Mark your donations for Teacher Support or Student Scholarship.

WONDERING ABOUT A MEANINGFUL HOLIDAY GIFT FOR SOMEONE? Give a

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long lasting gift by making a donation in their honor or memory. Use the enclosed card. A note of your gift will be sent to the recipient.

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