

HOPE NOTES

SPECIAL EDITION
SIERRA LEONE

Clean Water & Energy



Global Health



Protection & Education



worldhope.ca

CEO Tanya Nace and staff member Natalie Gidney experienced first-hand World Hope projects in West Africa.

This trip was transformative for me personally. As least developed countries according to the UN, both Sierra Leone and Liberia struggle with extreme poverty, hunger, access to clean water and a high rate of maternal and child deaths. World Hope is serving both the community and the church in a transformational way and each day many lives are being saved and communities are becoming sustainably healthier.

Meeting our colleagues who work in some of the hardest places in the world was energizing. At World Hope, we partner to see transformational development and sustainability in our programs. As I looked, listened, and learned about our projects and the people they impact I experienced a renewed hope that even in the hardest places, the light and love of Jesus shine brightly and there is hope.

Tanya

Natalie

Through World Hope's three pillars of Clean Water & Energy, Protection & Education, and Global Health, we are helping make a difference in the lives of thousands, and we are only able to do this because of your generous giving and prayers.



LIBERIA

Population:
5,517,472

UN Index: Least Developed Country

Major Religions:
Christianity (85.5%)
Islam (12.2%)
Indigenous Religions (0.5%)

SIERRA LEONE

Population:
8,785,000

UN Index: Least developed country

Major Religions:
Islam (61%)
Ethnic Religions (25%)
Christianity (13%)
31% least reached for the gospel



Enable the Children (ETC), Liberia

Meet Sam; he is the only Physical Therapist in the country of Liberia. It can be hard to understand the reality of life in a least developed country - and this is why: we take things for granted like clean water, electricity, garbage disposal, access to a toilet, ways to wash our hands, roads to drive on, even the ability to choose which physical therapist we want to visit.

In many countries like Liberia, no choice exists. No option. No chance. No physical therapist. I was honoured to see hope in Liberia as Sam is making a life changing difference for children and families. Not only has he personally trained two physical therapy assistants, but he is also partnering with World Hope's Enable the Children program to test out some small devices that make a big difference in the lives of children with disabilities.

Now, World Hope Liberia has found a local tailor who is making them in country and parents can buy them for their children at an appropriate cost! We see transformation take place; one child at a time and one family at a time.

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSVUE

1691 children with disabilities and their families in Sierra Leone received Enable the Children (ETC) services, including physical and occupational therapy, counseling, school visits and more.

The Cerebral Palsy rate is high among children in West Africa. In this picture, Sam is holding braces for the legs and hands of children with Cerebral Palsy. These braces were made in Sierra Leone, and he was trained how to use them through our ETC team.





We had the honour of watching our World Hope Sierra Leone Water & Sanitation team drill a deep borehole well for a village that had no access to nearby clean water. This well was funded by Canadian donors and it has now changed thousands of lives for generations to come.

As we watched the faces of the villagers observing the drilling team hit water and then insert the well piping, we knew they were processing this life-changing day as a historical moment for their village. We wondered if they were thinking:

- The clean water has come and now our children will no longer die from preventable water borne illnesses.
- The clean water has come and now we can grow a healthy crop.
- The clean water has come and now we can send our daughters to a full school day rather than having them walk miles to fetch dirty water.

The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

Isaiah 41:17 NIV

- The clean water has come and now we can stay in the village to fetch water and avoid physical and sexual attacks on long, lonely roads.
- This village is now dancing with hope that the clean water has finally come!

THE JESUS FILM in November 2023

- 20 villages
- 5,165 viewers
- 1,662 responded



Peace Island Kiosks

Liberia's Peace Island, home to 40,000 people was one of Monrovia's 113 slums. Residents had no land ownership. There was no electricity or roads and rats and cockroaches were everywhere. There was no access to nearby clean water and children were dying when crossing a dangerous intersection to collect dirty water. People defecated in the open as there were no toilets.

After 4 years of transformational development in partnership with local government, community groups, other NGO's, and churches, people now want to live in Peace Island! They have toilet facilities, a community center, access to clean water, nice roads, electricity, and land ownership!

World Hope has
completed the drilling
of **1000** wells in Africa
since 1996.

In communities where wells are drilled, local Wesleyan pastors initiate conversations with village chiefs and religious leaders to ask if they can share The Jesus Film. Follow up can include baptisms, discipleship, and either connection with Wesleyan Churches or church planting.

One of the transformative elements of the Peace Island story are multiple solar-powered, coin-operated, water distribution kiosks located throughout the community. These kiosks were built and continue to be managed by World Hope International. They not only bring clean water to the community but are sustainable and provide employment opportunities for women.

As solar-powered kiosks, the energy needed to pump water into the storage tanks comes from a renewable energy source. Water distribution is provided through gravity and as water is distributed, it is treated and filtered.

Peace Island is now a place where people have hope.





Trafficking Recovery Center, Sierra Leone

There is pure evil in this world. There is no other way to describe individuals who traffic other human for their organs, labor or sex. Trafficking is evil, wrong and sinful. But in evil there is hope. And we know that hope through Jesus can break through evil strongholds. The Recovery Center is a confidential home of hope, healing, and love for women and children who have been trafficked. As we rode to the center with its manager, Miriam, I couldn't help but notice the tender and loving way she talked about the women and children living there: survivors.

A very young disabled child. Survivor.

A pre-teen. Survivor.

A young adult. Survivor.

A mother. Survivor.

As we walked through the center I could hear laughter from the back room. We peeked around the corner and a small group of kids were having fun learning in their classroom.

They told me about the fun beach outing they had taken that week, and you could feel the warmth and love shown by their teacher. As I walked to the front of the house, one of World Hope's counselors shared with me how holistic the process is to help each survivor with meticulous focus to reunite them with their village and family. In some cases, World Hope's social workers spend months tracking down the village that a survivor is from and setting up reunification meetings so families can bond again with their loved one. In many cases, a child or teenager is trafficked not on purpose but tricked with the promise of education and access to food.

My heart and mind swam with emotions as I left the center, thanking the staff for using their gifts, talents and education to help women and children who have survived being trafficked.

The survivors and the staff stand in the face of evil and say, "Not today, Satan. You will not win here. This is a place of hope and love. This is a place where survivors thrive and find hope for a new future."

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
Isaiah 1:17 NIV



World Hope International runs trafficking recovery programs in Sierra Leone and the Philippines that supported 408 survivors in 2023.

Addressing issues that violate basic human rights, including human trafficking, gender-based violence, and lack of access to education.

Child Sponsorship School, Liberia

Valerie had a tough job prior to a holistic partnership with a church in North America. She is the principal of a Wesleyan School (grades pre-K to 6). This school is a ministry of The Wesleyan Church of Liberia and partners with World Hope's Child Sponsorship program.

A few years ago, kids were learning in an unsafe building. There was no garbage collection, no clean water access for students, no uniforms or supplies, no handwashing stations, no advanced education for the teachers and no access to technology. This school is in an urban area where 70% of the parents are single mothers and paying the school fee was a barrier for their children to attend school. When this school started a partnership with World Hope, the school began to experience sustainable change and hope.

They now have a renovated facility, 1/4 of the students are being sponsored, they have new uniforms each year, a deep borehole well was drilled which provides water for both the school AND the community. Handwashing stations and garbage collection were set up along with training on protection and anti-trafficking. Eight teachers are working on their associate degrees and are receiving training on how to work with children living with disabilities. Parents are now paying a much smaller fee for their children to attend school and the school is using a solar-powered smart box which gives them access to Chromebooks for learning and no internet or electricity is needed to operate them!

The teachers and students are encouraged and are learning how to learn. They are growing and developing each day and the excitement at the school is palpable. Such incredible and sustainable transformation takes place when a partner church says, "We want a church and school in West Africa to know they matter. We want to provide tools and training for sustainability. We want to sacrifice a small amount to see the lives of children transformed in a big way!"





Medication Distribution

Tania runs World Hope's medication and medical supply distribution in Liberia. Her team spends hundreds of days each year traversing dangerous and difficult terrain to deliver medication to rural clinics in hard-to-reach villages. Recently she arrived at a clinic to find the shelves bare. She brought medical supplies and extra boxes of rehydration treatment for children. The clinic staff were overjoyed because they had been struggling to help children dying of diarrhea. Tania shared that the village was celebrating, "World Hope is coming!" with supplies to literally save the lives of their children.



CHAMPS

Sierra Leone has the highest incidence of under 5 child mortalities in the world. The CHAMPS program invites pregnant women to attend clinics so they can be monitored up to day 42 of a newborn child's life, which is proving to be a critical juncture to a child's survival. When a mom enters the program, she has access to early assessment and treatment of medical issues such as malnutrition and pre-eclampsia. Saving the lives of babies and moms brings hope to families.

Infant mortality rate under age 5 per 1000 live births in Sierra Leone are the highest in the world. In 2021, there were 104.7 deaths per 1000. With the new surveillance program, we hope to see this number decrease.

Thank you for your generosity in giving to World Hope. We focus daily on transformational development in the way of Jesus in the least developed countries of the world. You are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people every month!



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