

To: Staff, Parents and Children,  
Emmanuel C of E Primary School

March 2015

Dear friends and partners,

**Re: Changing lives in Sierra Leone**

It is with great joy and deep gratitude that I am writing to you about our shared work in Sierra Leone. The past 9 months has been an especially difficult period for our friends in The Jewels Model Preparatory School in Upper Allen Town (a suburb of Freetown).

Through your amazing fundraising activities and generosity, you have been making a significant and vital difference in the lives of the pupils and families of the school as they faced school suspension and even community-wide lockdown; thank you so much for caring enough to help.

I recently received a report to pass on to you from the President of the school, Rev Georgiana Kargbo – here is what she wrote (with some photos she included):

*2014/2015 has been a year of fear and terror for those residing in Sierra Leone due to the killer disease Ebola which has claimed thousands of lives. We watched helplessly as friends, neighbours and love ones are snatched away by the disease. People live in a state of uncertainty not knowing who would be next, sometimes you don't even know who to trust. God in His faithfulness has preserved us and will continue to do so not because we are better but because of His mercies we are not consumed.*

*I thank the God for the lives of the Wellspring church family headed by Rev. and Rev. (Mrs.) Tim Roberts and the Emmanuel school who have never left us but supported us in prayers and finance as the situation in Sierra Leone was in a very crucial state, one of great need for sustenance. May God bless them richly!*

*The money raised and sent by the Emmanuel School was timely; some was used to support the bereaved families during their twenty one days' quarantine and after as we had just lost three parents to Ebola (two female & a male) and another vibrant parent who lost his life in a car accident. The rest of money went towards school uniform materials for the less fortunate children who would not be able to afford uniforms after reopening of school. The school tailor Alex has already started sewing the uniforms of those whom measurements have been taken.*

*The last money sent by the Wellspring family was a great blessing because we were still able to provide more food*



New desks

*for the suffering families of Jewels, Anchor and some Muslims neighbours which was a great testimony. Many said Christians were strong in having have compassion for others.*

*Twenty five local desks were made to seat the Jewels Secondary School though we have to improvise for housing them this year (2015) but we are still trusting God for the following year. As you know we have plans to build a secondary school block as soon as we can raise the funds.*

Transforming communities with the love of God



There is a great demand on schools this year from Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Child Protection Agency and Ministry of Education to fence all school compounds.

Because thermometers will be used after reopening the school to monitor temperature, gates will be shut and reopened at specific time to keep children in and also protect them from reckless bike-riders that ply the roads. Unfortunately we have an unfinished fence without gates. We have managed to start the front with balance



New boundary wall in construction



money left but can't continue due to lack of funds so as for now we don't know our fate with the ministry.

Usually at the start of every year I take a month retreat to wait on the Lord in prayer and fasting trusting Him for direction and a word for His people. The word given was "A year of divine expansion/enlargement". As I sought His face for Jewels and the Jewels Secondary School He said "I have called a man from a far country to execute my plans".

He said "I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.

When I spoke with Tim the other day with a vision to help build a Secondary School in the next few years, what he said was a confirmation from the Lord.

Thank you for everything. I pray that the good Lord will continue to bless you all continuously and be reminded that your labour in the Lord is not in vain!

Looking forward we are looking to support the school's reopening by providing essential equipment, ongoing financial sponsorship of teachers, and as Georgiana mentions, ultimately the construction of a new Secondary School block. This will be a dream come true, and allow every Jewels pupil to continue their study beyond Year 6 for the first time. Wonderful! I have architect's drawings on my desk (see below), along with detailed costings. The ground floor will cost £11,300 and the budget for the completion of a two-storey building is over £20,000. Here at Wellspring Church we are excited about seeing this building completed in the next few years. Perhaps you could help?

Either way, your ongoing care, support and partnership in supporting the amazing Jewels School is genuinely life-changing. I echo Georgiana's words: God bless you, and thank you!

Rev Tim Roberts  
Senior Minister

