



EDUNATIONS

End of Year 2016

EduNations' Mission: Igniting Hope | *Motivated by compassion for the "least of these" beginning in Sierra Leone, West Africa, we seek to connect resources from affluent societies with the needs of the poorest in the world to provide education, opportunity and hope.*

A Report from Samuel Sesay on In-Country Events -2016

Our In-country Directory, Samuel Sesay, has provided us with some glimpses of the work in Sierra Leone and the amazing progress and advancements. They are pictures of flourishing and hope!

For the past two years the most exciting news regarding God's great faithfulness is in keeping us safe from the Ebola crisis. With Sierra Leone being completely free of Ebola today it is a comforting assurance to know that we serve a God who continues to love us regardless.

EduNations is being supported by the Sierra Leone Alliance (SLA) in Western NY, to provide psychosocial support to 100 Ebola orphans in 17 different communities through a Psychosocial worker, Fatu. For the Second quarter report, Fatu reported this impactful story demonstrating God's amazing faithfulness. "Momoh lost his two parents through Ebola on the same day. The first thing that struck his mind when his parents passed away was his education. He thought that was the end. With the help of his caregiver, they moved to Rokassa where he was enrolled to this project. In Rokassa, he found free education, free learning materials and caring and experienced teachers. Since he started



benefiting from this project, he has been stable and doing well at school. He said at first he was lost but the SLA and EduNations has found him and given meaning to his life."

More encouraging news comes from the remote village of Gbenikoro. In his 4th visit there in March 2014, EduNations' President Rev. Dr. Dean Weaver pronounced in a community meeting that: "EduNations would build a Junior Secondary School in Gbenikoro to provide free Christian education to the children of Gbenikoro and the six surrounding catchment villages". Fast forward to July 2016, a six (6) classroom block school is being built in Gbenikoro. Moreover, for two years now, EduNations has employed seven (7) teachers who have been teaching in the government Primary school (a whole Primary school with just one teacher before) and students in the EduNations Hope Academy Junior Secondary School 1 & 2. Also, EduNations has completed the building of the Birth Waiting Home in Gbenikoro. Pregnant women now go to the well-furnished home during labor and a supply of birthing items and materials is being given as a gift to every woman who delivers their baby in the birth waiting home. Needless to say that the infant mortality rate is greatly reduced all thanks to God's amazing faithfulness.

In a recent Facebook update from the field, Samuel shared this post that says it better than we ever could. "Imagine 2,000 students in all our schools having to say thank you to you all! Imagine the poor parents of these students having the opportunity to say thank you to you all! Imagine whole communities which are being transformed by your prayerful support having the opportunity to say thank you! If only you could imagine what a difference you are making in Sierra Leone today, you will accept our thankfulness. Thank you!"

Rokassa Village Clinic Update

A child learns best when they are healthy (at least that is what we think)! EduNations works with each of the communities we serve to help ensure that all our students have access to healthcare. Sometimes this is very challenging. Because of the Ebola epidemic we realized our village of Rokassa was both very isolated and vulnerable. Thanks to our partners at WTS in Lewiston, NY we built the *Orfonthy Community Health Center* and now through foundation funding acquired by Board member Dr. Jeff Gingrich we can finish and furnish the center. A one day clinic has already been conducted by our partner Jericho Road Community Health Center serving over 250 people. Another one day clinic is planned before the grand opening in early 2017.

Biggest Need For The Coming Year

Our greatest financial need in 2017 is the purchase of a studier, all-terrain vehicle for our staff to move around the country of Sierra Leone. Currently, our 2 residential style vehicles are not holding up to the rigorous roads, or lack of roads, to travel to our remotest villages. What is needed is a single, "water tight" vehicle such as a Toyota Land Cruiser or Range Rover "Dogface" that can travel through the toughest terrain. This requires an investment of \$20,000(used)-\$60,000(new) US dollars and is by far our biggest capital investment needed in 2017. Would you consider being a part of that investment? Designate your giving as EduNations Vehicle.

EDUNATIONS BACK TO SCHOOL 2016

Financial Update from our President

2016 has been a challenging year financially for EduNations. In the United States, financial conditions led to an unanticipated reduction on the part of our largest corporate sponsor and largest church partner. Both continue to be passionate about the work in Sierra Leone, but this unbudgeted decrease led to some very lean months. The good news is that God's faithfulness provided for us month by month so that we could meet all our expenses. In Sierra Leone, the economy has struggled since the Ebola crisis. With international companies pulling out, the prices of basic daily necessities have risen dramatically. Considering this, we have increased the salaries of our teachers in hopes that they can just keep up with caring for their families.

Due to the incredible generosity of a few partners, designated for specific capital projects, we have largely completed both a new health clinic in the village of Rokassa and a Junior Secondary School in Gbenekoro. A newly formalized relationship with Sierra Leone Alliance partner, Jericho Road Community Health will enable the operation of the Rokassa Clinic beginning in early 2017.

2016 concluded with two strong fundraising opportunities in Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

Building on the success of these events, we are encouraged that the Lord has good things for

us in 2017. To date about \$310,000 has been received toward an annual budget of \$330,000. It is our prayer that your year-end donations will enable us to end the year strong and faithfully serve "the least of these" on your behalf in the year to come!



- Dr. D. Dean Weaver - President: Board of Directors

Fundraising Season Results

Thank you to our many Western New York EduNations supporters who attended the "Share the Bounty" Dessert reception at the Chapel at Crosspoint on Thursday, November 18. Old friends were reconnected and new friends invited to a delightful evening of music, gourmet treats, and an update on EduNations' work in Sierra Leone. Thank you to all who attended and for your generous donations!

On Thursday December 8th about 500 people attended a benefit concert by Grammy Award Winning Artist Laura Story, hosted by Memorial Park Church in Pittsburgh. Laura's song "Blessings" was certified GOLD in 2011 and inspired her first book "What If Your Blessings Come through Raindrops". As EduNations' President and MPC Lead Pastor Dean Weaver noted, "we came to a Christmas concert and a worship service broke out." It was a beautiful and powerful evening supporting the work of EduNations. Including the addition of 24 new Student Sponsors, over \$56,000 was raised on behalf of "the least of these" in Sierra Leone that night. Combined with nearly \$20,000 in donations from our Western NY friends, we ended the year with a strong fundraising season! Thank you!

We thank the generosity of our concert sponsors



2016 Student Sponsorship Update



Thank you to our many faithful sponsors! Many of you have stayed with your sponsor child from the beginning of the

program and your student has benefited from a 100% free education and their books, supplies and uniforms provided for them. This is a

priceless gift you have given and your student thanks you! If you would like to send a letter to your sponsor child, please send to the EduNations PO Box by January 31, 2017. We ask for no larger than greeting card size.

The schools of Fintonia and Rokassa are more than 50% sponsored but there are many more sponsorship opportunities available, especially in the very remote villages we serve. The need is great! Please consider this unique and tangible way to make a difference for a specific child in Sierra Leone! You can see available students and start an automatic monthly payment of \$28 or yearly payment of \$336 right through the EduNations.org website. Contact Beth Weaver, Child Sponsorship Liaison, with your interest or questions about the sponsorship program at Edu4nations@gmail.com or 412-552-4756. Thank you for your involvement!

Please visit the EduNations web site at www.edunations.org