

## NARRATIVE REPORT

Project # 95220

Date of report: March 22, 2017

Project Name: Liberian Church Ebola Response

Report for the period: December 2016 – January 2017

### Vision of the project

The vision of this project is to equip the Evangelical Church of Liberia with the funds required to engage meaningfully in multiple facets of Ebola response with the aims of protecting those at risk, providing for those who are suffering, and caring for those who are grieving. ECOL will intensify Ebola awareness campaigns, assist with the societal reintegration of those who survive, provide relief support to affected family members, and provide counseling services to those living through this trauma.

### Project background

Liberia is Africa's oldest republic with a population of just over 4 million people. In recent history, the country suffered through a long-running civil war which killed approximately 250,000 people and left the country in economic ruin (the GNI per capita is \$330). The conflict also left the country with a vulnerable public health infrastructure making the government unable to effectively manage the rampant transmission of the Ebola virus. The Ebola virus has been spreading in Liberia since March. There have been approximately 5,000 cases to date (with approximately 65% fatality). There are approximately 20,000 contacts of infected people identified and about 10,000 of these are actively being followed up. The church is in the epicenter of caring for the vulnerable, the quarantined, the grieving, and the survivors.

### Progress

The Liberian Church Ebola Response Project team did its year end relief distribution in December 2016. 40 families benefitted from the distribution. Each family head received a relief package including a 25 kg.rice, 3-gallon container of refined vegetable oil, 20 pcs. of laundry soap, one dozen bath soap, a pack of magi cubes, and a gallon of bleach. Ebola is gone but its effects still linger on and many affected families are still struggling amidst massive unemployment and hyper-inflation.

The team also met with beneficiaries for follow-up/counseling. All of the beneficiaries are improving in health and state of mind except Solomon King (Ebola survivor) who, in our view, needs professional help. Solomon has sunk into alcohol addiction and despite our many interventions has not shown any improvement. He lost his parents and brother to Ebola in November and December of 2015, and is an Ebola survivor himself. All their personal belongings were burned by the community dwellers to avoid the spread of the virus. He and his younger sister are the only two surviving members of his family. Solomon had just completed high school and very active in church ministry when the crisis struck.

**STORY:** Eight of the beneficiaries were part of our November - December 2016 trauma healing small group. They were so grateful to have joined eight others for the five-week small group sessions. It was an emotional time for most of them as they pour out their pains and handed them over to the Lord Jesus for healing of their heart wounds. One of the participants, Esther Korvah – also one of the beneficiaries and a widow from Ebola, told the participants (in

tears): “I have never found such peace of mind and heart as I have since last week’s class. I feel like a heavy load has been lifted off my heart, and I just know that the healing of my heart has begun – the pain, bitterness, anger, unforgiving spirit are all leaving my heart. Jesus is the reason I am rejoicing again.”

**PHOTOS: Below are few of the photos during the relief distribution**



**Villie Manuel (widow and blind)**



**Bindu suffered stroke since Ebola**



**Nathaniel (stroke patient since Ebola) and family**



**Mother and child (Ebola survivors)**



**Papa Blama (middle) and surviving family**



**Pastor Mosese with Marie (a widow)**

## Prayer request

Please join us in prayer for:

- **the Lord's provision to enable us assist those in need regularly.**
- **Solomon King who is in need of professional help to resolve his addiction problems.**

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