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## **From Meadville to Sierra Leone: educating and transforming lives through faith and literacy**

Nov 7, 2025 Meadville Tribune by Rich Green

Imagine living in a remote African village of 250 people. There's little electricity, few vehicles, and only three people can read or write. There's a mosque but no church. You dream of teaching the children to read and to know Jesus, yet you can't afford teacher training.

That's the kind of need that the nonprofit Transformation Education, founded by Meadville native Gwen Smith, is working to meet in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Smith, a daughter of Melvin and Kathy Smith and a graduate of Calvary Baptist Elementary School and Meadville Area Senior High, first moved to serve full-time in Sierra Leone in 2007 after volunteering with Mercy Ships. What began as one teacher's step of faith has grown into a network mentoring educators to bring literacy and the Gospel to unreached communities.

"Our mission is to help people know, love, and live God's Word," Smith said.

The Sierra Leone team recently completed the sixth year of summer Bible and literacy training. Now, during the school year, they mentor, evaluate, and lead in-service trainings. Here in the U.S., volunteers are supporting and praying for at least \$30,000 in new annual funding to expand Sierra Leone staff and reach more schools.

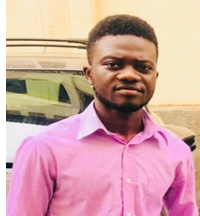
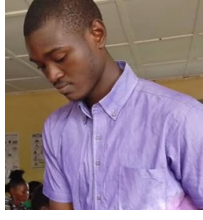
"Our vision is to help Christian educators reach thousands of children with both literacy and the Gospel — especially in places where Christ is not known," Smith said.

Readers can learn more, pray or give at [transformeds1.com](http://transformeds1.com).





# TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION



**Sierra Leone Team**

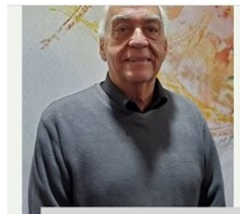
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**TRANSFORMATION** E D U C A T I O N



**From all of us at Transformation Education  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!**



*News from* **TRANSFORMATION**  
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# THANK YOU!

As I think of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I am so grateful for all of you who help Transformation Education with your talents, gifts, volunteering, and prayers. You are a vital part of our ministry. We have just finished our Kingdom Builders Partnership Dinner and maybe you are thinking that you missed it. Our goal was to have an additional \$30,000 and we reached 34% of our goal. Well, you can still help us. On December 2, 2025 it is Giving Tuesday. I would like to see us end our year strong. Please consider giving to Transformation Education between now and the end of the year. You can scan the QR Code to donate using credit card/debit card or checking account; or send a check payable to:



Transformation Education, PO Box 914, Meadville, PA 16335.