



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.

Financial Partners contribution methods:

1. Scan the QR Code to donate using credit card/debit card or checking account; or
2. Send a check payable to:
Transformation Education,
PO Box 914, Meadville, PA 16335.



Thank You!

About Us: Transformation Education, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) that supports Sierra Leone's Transformation Education, a Community Based Organization (CBO) serving the education sector.

TE Currently Provides:

- Scholarships for job-ready certification
- Three years of weekly mentorship
- Curriculum development for children and educators
- College and in-service training

Long Term Goals:

- Leadership and systems development
- Whole school and community engagement

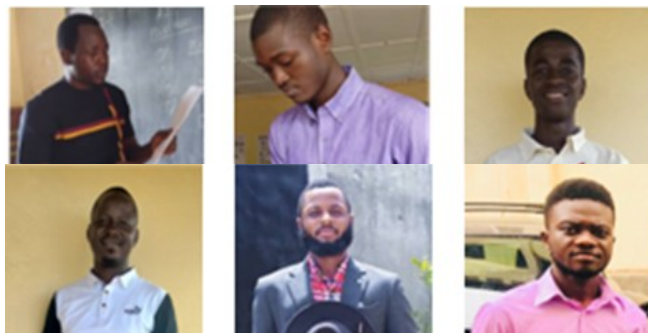
Prayer Points

Thanksgiving:

1. We are thankful for health, talents, donations, volunteering, and prayers.

A. We have just finished our Kingdom Builders Partnership Dinner and made progress toward new and increased financial partnerships.

B. New Sierra Leone Staff Team members.



Requests:

1. Administrative systems, orientation and transition of the new and current partners and staff members for sustainability.
2. That we may live worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1:9-12

Gwen and Melanie Update:

1. Gwen's test showed zero signs of cancer. Resulting in less pills and appointments.
2. December 11th Melanie turned 6 yrs old. We may need to wait another 31 months for the reply to her application for US Citizenship. She is having a good Kindergarten experience.

Testimonies

Thank you for partnering with us!

Educational Progress

"The literacy class empowers participants by providing essential reading and writing skills, enabling them to pursue further educational opportunities and improve employability." - Thomas S.

Spiritual Growth

"The Biblical World View teaching helped me grow in understanding God's work. I was a Muslim, but through the Biblical study I decided to become a Christian and was baptized." - Ann-Marie L. K.

Personal Growth & Responsibility

"This opportunity has truly been a blessing. I've learned to read and speak English better, to grow spiritually, and to take responsibility for myself and others." - Hawanatu K. B.



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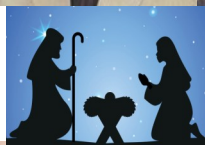


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or email Ivy.Boor@gmail.com Thanks!



From all of us at Transformation Education
May Christ's love fill your Christmas and New Year!



Pictured: Sierra Leone and US Board & Volunteers

Thank you for partnering with us!