



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 Issue 1

May 2017

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10th Anniversary!

Dear Friends,

May this news find you overflowing with the love, peace and joy of the Lord.

I welcome you to join us in giving thanks for Transformation Education's 10th Anniversary in Sierra Leone! Sunday, May 7th, 2017 marks the 10th year TE officially started our practical ministry in Sierra Leone, West Africa. May 7th, 2007 I, Gwendolyn Joy Smith, under the authority of World Hope International arrived in Sierra Leone as Director of Transformation Education. Together with co-founder and former Mercy Ship's Child Development Project co-worker, Prince Sama. TE established our activities from our office at #5 Bailey Street, Freetown. By 2010, TE moved to 36 Sanders Street Freetown, to start a Resource Centre, providing training and materials for educators, church leaders and community members. Today, TE is still on Sanders Street and conducting the activities that you can read about in this newsletter.

We are grateful for the many teaching and learning opportunities we have had since our last newsletter in December. Our team has attempted to share many of them with you in this update. Here are a few bits that were not covered in the other reports.

Counting Blessings:

1. The God Story Project partnership, as they worked with volunteers to have the 80 minute video translated into five Sierra Leone languages.
2. Character and teaching methodology training by Terry Ortman, the author of the Biblical Based Curriculum.
3. The Young Worshipers (YW) have partnered with TE in many ways. TE staff joined their Annual Conference, Mission Trip and advisory board. Four of their members regularly volunteer with us and Daniel the director is interning with TE as he finishes his bachelor degree in Missions from The Evangelical Theological College.
4. Community Evangelism: TE staff and volunteers have been going out for 30-45 minutes, a few days a week, in pairs of two to share the Bible stories they have been learning through Simply the Story.
5. Wisdom Club for Kids: TE provided teachers and benches for these neighbor children. We aim to serve the children better by making a portable potty (tarp and bucket).
6. Rural Area Community Hotspot Education Learning (RACHEL): The TE team is still learning what is on the RACHEL. One science student has regularly benefitted from watching Khan Academy Science teachings. Another is progressing through the leveled reading phonics books and some African story books.
7. Scholarship students: The students who received scholarships are progressing well. They are so grateful. There are MANY others who come to us REQUESTING WORK OR SCHOLARSHIPS to pay their fees to graduate Junior High, Senior High School and College, even to attend elementary school.
8. Bible Study Guide for All Ages: This is the curriculum we look forward to starting in our Children's Sunday School starting May. Many others churches have expressed interest in using this curriculum and are looking for ways to pay for it. The teacher's guide for 25 lessons is \$10 and each student's book is \$6. <https://biblestudyguide.com/>
9. Math Lessons-Ibrahim Sheriff is teaching Math to staff and volunteers at TE in exchange for payment for his high school graduation/college entrances exams.
10. A British friend Saida gives Phonics/Reading lessons twice a week, modeling for the staff, individual and small group guided reading so they know how to teach others how to blend letter sounds to discover words.



We are **looking forward** to and preparing for: 1. Oral Bible Schools, 2. Soul of Africa, Young Worshipers and other students volunteer assistant teaching in the schools, 3. Public relations and administrative development of staff and volunteers, 4. Distribution of the expected 40 foot container shipment in June 5. Ministering with a short term USA mission team in July, 6. Computer and technology training, 7. Bible and academic quiz competitions.

Simply the Story

From: Emmanuel T.

The advance training started on the 27th February and ended on the 3rd of March 2017. It was the first ever StS training program that I attended. In my quest for God's treasures in the Bible stories, I was always present and on time.

The foundation of (StS) was laid very strongly in me. I could not imagine any better use of my time throughout that period in because of the value of what I learned there. I was trained there to do my first ever Bible story presentation. I learned a lot from the facilitators through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The second phase of my StS experience was through the workshop at Kamakwie. I was privileged to serve as a tribe leader. Under the tutelage of Mr. Henry I was leading and helping to coach others to learn and share the Bible stories.

Another awesome moment for me was sharing a story at the Kamakwie Secondary School assembly. Presenting a Bible story to a galaxy of testy souls, and knowing how they feel by their responses is a blessing and a joy to me.

Finally, I appreciate the TE staff for organizing and funding STS. It was also very clear from the participants' faces that they appreciated greatly the StS Workshop.



Pictured is TE team printing and compiling STS handouts. The copy and Rizograph machine are valuable ministry tools.

From: Jusu T.K.

I attended the STS advanced training workshop and Transformation Education (T.E.) helped me pay the workshop fees. One goal was to train Provisional Instructors to teach at the following one week workshop in Kamakwie, beginning on the 5th of March 2017. It was approximately a 6 hour drive to Kamakwie. When I arrived I met others from Freetown who arrived before me. We were welcomed and directed to our lodging apartments. The locals welcome us nicely. I learned especially how to evangelize in rural areas with different tribes, cultures and background. On the last two days of the workshop we showed the God story video to the Kamakwie community. About 150 attended on Thursday and 220 on Friday.

Along the way during my return home to Freetown, I enjoyed safe riding, and sharing of Bible stories. My favorite Bible story after advanced [STS] training workshop is [jars of oil] from 2 Kings 4:1-7. This story teaches me to be honest and content in all circumstances as did the widow and Prophet Elisha. Above all I thank God for his grace in my life. The locals that attended the [STS] workshop in Kamakwie promise to organize Oral Bible Schools in their different localities.

From: Jusu T.K.

The most significant change in my life after the advanced STS workshop is that I learned maturity. I learned to love one another, to enjoy transformation, and to transform to God's glory and that Christians are in the Prince/Priesthood lineage.

I thank God for his grace and TE for helping me spiritually, morally and financially to attain these goals.

The Bible story I liked best this time is about David and Saul's Robe (1 Samuel 4:1-7). I learned that David in all circumstances and opportunities patiently waited upon the Lord and that glory is to be given to God alone for David's kingship. I thank God for the transformation I am experiencing everyday In life with the help of TE supporters.

At TE we will be organizing Oral Bible School [OBS] using the STS way of learning 296 Bible Stories. Praise be to God.



Alfred and Jusu

FROM: ALFRED KEITA KHEMALAI

I'm extremely grateful to GOD Almighty for the great transformation that has taken place in my life as a result of the S.T.S. Workshop. The story that impacted me most is the story about the Jars of Oil, found in 2 King 4:1-7. Out of this story I have learned to put my trust, hope and belief in

Jehovah no matter what the circumstances in life might be. What interested me most in this story is the miracle that took place in the widow's house, when many empty jars were filled by just one jar of oil. May GOD bless all those that made this workshop a reality? Special thanks go to Miss Gwen and Mr. Jusu for their kind assistance and encouragement.



In Kamakwie, I was blessed with the opportunity to learn together with these men the STS method of learning and sharing the Bible.

YOUNG WORSHIPERS FELLOWSHIP SIERRA LEONE (YWFSL) PARTNERSHIP WITH TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION (TE)
BY: DANIEL AMEN – YWFSL COUNTRY DIRECTOR and TE INTERN

Young Worshipers Fellowship Sierra Leone (YWFSL) has considered it a great opportunity to work with Transform Education (TE). We have been blessed with leadership trainings of several types. These have helped to develop the lives of many youth from various backgrounds and communities. These trainings include Kairos, Community Health Evangelism (CHE), Simply The Story (STS), and a study of the Book of Romans.

The weeklong Kairos Course was missionary training, for indigenous missionaries. TE sponsored eight Young Worshipers, paying for the registration, feeding, transportation, and housing for those that came from the provinces. The Kairos course helped all the attendees develop greater mindset for missions.

At our four day yearly national youth conference. Miss Gwen Joy taught from the book of Romans. About fifty youth including Muslim and people from different church denominations came from four regions of Sierra Leone for leadership teaching and evangelism.

TE also sponsored thirteen (13) members of YWFSL to a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) leader's seminar which challenged them to lead others and developing communities holistically.

TE continued from 2016 in partnership with YWFSL to advance Simply the Story (STS) training in 2017. In February TE sponsored five Young Worshipers to participate in a week of advanced training, preparing them to be instructors. In March, we hosted a week of training in Kamakwie, which is six hours drive from Freetown. There were 45 participants. Twelve of them were Young Worshipers. Their registration, feeding and transportation were provided by TE. Five people were taught in their indigenous language (Limba). Both the participants and the instructor find it encouraging, that seven of the participants walked an average of three and a half miles daily, from their various villages.

Two evenings we had outdoor showings of The God Story Project video. The first night over 150 came the second night 200. For many viewers this was their first time to see a video that shows step by step from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Young Worshipers are using STS method at their bi-monthly meetings, all night services, mission trip outreaches, and while teaching Sunday school at their various churches. Many testimonies are coming from both literate and non-literate people in their communities.

In a nut shell, we all as YWFSL thanks and appreciate all the relentless supporters of TE, and their faithful prayers of transformational hope for Sierra Leone. This great light and care, gives me hope for us all.



Some Young Worshipers Board Members and Leaders



Kairos Missionary Training – YWFSL



Community Health Evangelism
YWFSL & TE Participants



During the Young Worshipers mission trip in Madina they served the community by cleaning the police station, churches and mosques.



Simply the Story (STS) Kamakwie

THE IMPACT CREATED IN ME BY TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION (TE)
By Emmanuel T Temoindor.

On my way to Makeni city to attend YWFSL board meeting, I met with Miss Gwen Joy Smith who told me about TE. I visited TE office in honour of her invitation, and I ended up becoming a volunteer. Today, through my volunteerism, I have learnt about the STS, the Bible Based Curriculum (BBC) for schools, met and made new friends and gained a wealth of knowledge in working with people. TE encourages me to take up responsibility, practice helpfulness always etc. To the glory of God TE is a blessing to the whole nation of Sierra Leone.

Shipping Container:

These items are desired for TE in Sierra Leone and wanted as we pack the container for shipment this summer. Call Melvin Smith (Dad) 814 282 4010 with questions or if you want to help pack.

Small / Medium Items

a. Clear plastic storage boxes (shoe box size and larger) (We need MANY to store teaching/learning materials, keeping them organized and from the dust.

b. Rain Gear (boots, pants, coat)

c. Markers

d. Bibles

e. Crayons

f. Kids Scissors

g. Adult Scissors

h. Plastic Cover Sheets

i. Wireless Devices so we can use RACHEL (Rural Area Community Hotspot Educational Learning) and other educational tools.

1. Computers

2. Tablets

3. Phones

j. Cell Phones (unlocked, SIM) for staff communication

k. USB sticks

l. Zip-loc storage bags: huge and various sizes (for puzzles and other learning materials)

m. water bottles

n. garden gloves

Large Items:

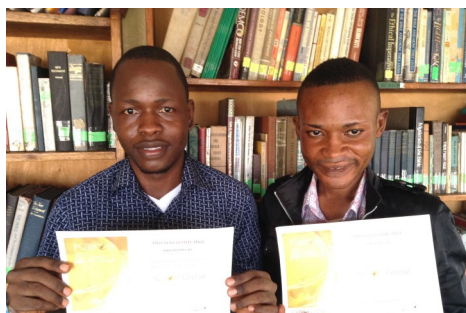
a. Folding Tables

b. File Cabinets

c. Public Announcement (PA) Systems, Speakers Bluetooth Big

d. Tar for road repair

e. Paint (indoor medium yellow and white for trim; outdoor cream and dark brown for trim.) Primer (if not included in the paint)



Abraham Bangura and Desmond Kallon
Kairos Certificates

WISDOM CLUB FOR KIDS NEWS

First, I want to thank God for His grace, wisdom and understanding given to the director of TE and to the Suffield family. Mr. Paul & Mrs. Saida Suffield contribute refreshments and activities each time we meet.

It is really a blessing to have a Bible club in the community. The club helps the children improve in academic work and in the way they behave at home. There are a lot of kids who are not fortunate to go to school. When we taught them the story of Jonah about how he disobeyed God and how God disciplined him. They asked if we disobey our parent will God punish us. "Yes, I replied and so will your parents." I reminded them of the memory verse which was taken from the book of John 14:15 "If you love me you will obey my commandment." I told them if you repent of your evil deeds God will forgive you as he forgave Jonah. It is really a blessing to have a Bible club.

I also thank God for the teachers. We are also blessed, for example we all have different career backgrounds yet the teaching experience helps us greatly improve our dreams.

The Bible club started on February 1, 2017 we start with twenty (20) children and now we have about forty five (45) to seventy (70) each meeting.

Thanks be to God almighty!



WISDOM CLUB FOR KIDS

Abraham Bangura

I was sent by Transformation Education, on the 30th of January through the 3rd of February 2017 to attend a training course called **Kairos** which means "now is our time." It is a motivational course that challenges people to take responsibility to reach the unreached people in their nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ. For the first time I learned the population of people living in my country Sierra Leone.

The total population is:	7,100,000 people
Muslim	60 %
Christians	20 %
Those with other religions	20 %

When I learned the number of Christians we have in Sierra Leone a burden was placed in my heart to pray for my nation. During the training we looked at a video about Christians that impacted their generation. A statement that pricked my heart is that Christian people are the vehicle God is using to reach the unreached in these last days. I have made myself available to go to villages where the gospel has not reached. I am still praying for God to lead me where He wants me to go. Your prayer is appreciated. Thank God for our director Gwen Smith and your support and prayers for us here in Sierra Leone.

If you are interested in joining a short-term mission team that will serve in Sierra Leone with Transformation Education at the end of July 2017 please contact Ivy Boor at 814-720-8382.

THE VALUE TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION HAS GIVEN ME

Teachers:

Hello I am Theresa . I am a teacher at the Joyful Kids Preparatory School (JKPS). Above all the TE Centre has taught me lots of stories from the Bible. I even used these stories by telling my friends and families.

I am Isatu, a teacher at the JKPS. At TE centre I have learned lots about phonics, like how to sound letter and blending. I really thank God for TE because the knowledge they have passed onto me I also pass on to my students in class.

Students:

My name is Mariatu I am attending the Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG). I am grateful to be at TE. The first time I came to TE Resource Center I learned a lot about Bible stories and the Jolly Phonics chart. I even made new friends.

My name is Abibatu; I am attending the Methodist Buxton Girls Primary School. The TE center has helped my life with so many initiatives such as using phonetics to sound my name with actions and a song. I also have learned so many Bibles stories and how to pray.

Hello, My Name is Samuel, and I am attending the Buxton Methodist Primary School for Boys located at Charles Street Freetown . TE helped me pronounce letters in a phonetic way. God bless TE.

My name is Umu. I was invited to the centre by a friend of mine at first, but I now come for myself because of the phonetic songs, actions, and the Bible stories.

My name is Umaru. I am attending the Holy Trinity Primary School for Boys. I am grateful to be at TE. The first time I came I learn about the Jolly Phonics chart and also about the Bible. I even made new friend at the centre.

My name Is Mariana. At this center every day I am here I learn something new. Thank God for the TE resource center.

I am Baindu, the TE Center staff have taught me how to spell. May God bless the staff of TE.

My name is Abibatu Favour. I am attending the FSSG. It is a great thing that I joined my friends from my school to come to the Transformation Education. I am blessed because never in my life had I heard the word Phonics. It was very fun and the staffs are very kind and helpful. May God continue to bless them.

FROM: DONALD POWERS

Normally when I go to bed at night I pray to God, forgive me from my sins and lead me the right way to progress. Transformation Education (TE)'s impact has gotten me used to stories in the Bible. After office hours, when I go home I review the story which we learned during the day. When I read it I ask questions to myself and I apply it in daily life. So, I read the Bible when I go to church. Now I am able to understand a story in the Bible. When I completed my TE volunteer form they were about to have a STS. I presented Bible stories during the two weeks of STS workshop. I thank God and TE for this great opportunity to get more understanding about useful steps for presenting Bible stories. They helped us with transportation and feeding throughout the training.

TE has brought change in my life, which every body is looking at me in my community and my father says I am now a changed man. As soon as we arrived in Kamakwie for the second week of training, my gums and cheek started to swell because my tooth was infected. I explained this to Miss Gwen Joy and Mr. Henry. They paid so I could go to Kamakwie Hospital where they removed the tooth. I really thank God and thank them for this greatest opportunity that was given to me. I pray that the Lord will guide them and protect from things.



Note: Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Ripe For Harvest World Outreach has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. All funds donated to Gwen Smith # 20397 as described below are distributed to Transformation Education.

Financial contributions are appreciated and can be made *electronically* or by *check*. With either method **INCLUDE the ACCOUNT #20397 to ensure that your contribution gets to Gwen Smith and Transformation Education.**

1. Checks should be made payable to Ripe for Harvest and sent to:

**PO Box 487
Monument, CO 80132-0487**

2. Electronic Contribution options:

A. Go to ripeforharvest.org and select donate, then select give by credit card, then select under Missions/projects - Smith, Gwendolyn

B. Forms can be accessed by calling and requesting them from Ripe for Harvest at

Phone: 719-488-4121

Mark your Calendars for the
11th Annual
Transformation Education
Event in Meadville
October 21, 2017

FROM: ZAINAB KAMARA

Simply the Story (STS) Kamakwie gave me hope in life that I should never give up.

I thought all was lost in my life, but through STS at Kamakwie, I now know that there is still hope in life, because I was able to stand and teach people who are even older than me. They said, "You are a good teacher and this way of telling the Word of God is a good way, but it difficult to understand." "Within three days you taught us to understand quickly and it is a blessing to have you in our group."

I also thank God for their lives and the way God is helping them to learn fast.

Most importantly when I heard the story of Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10, the story impacted me so much, that whenever I take from anybody, even if it is my family, I should restore it back to them.

I really thank God for Miss Gwen Smith she made it possible for me to be there by taking care of my transportation feeding and lodging.

We showed the God's Story film people were impacted by the translation of the film. They said, "so this is the way God created the world and I said to them this is God's story from creation to eternity.

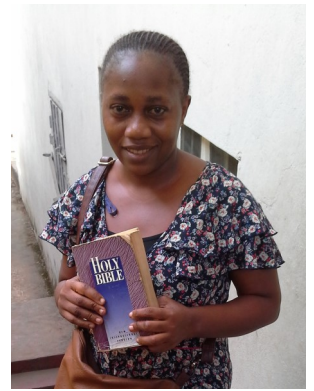
The first creation disobeyed God and he said for this reason they now are suffering, but Jesus came to pay the debt for us. He came to die for our sins, so we really want to know more. I told them to attend the Oral Bible School and they said, "sure we will be there."

**The Best Treasure I Have Gained as a
Staff Member of Transformation Education**

By: Abraham Turay

The most recent and best changes I have gained from T.E. is from Simply the Story (STS). I have been going to church for years but I never knew that telling stories in the Bible to other people is another way of doing evangelism and reaching the unreached. By using this method, I am able to tell stories to my family and I am also able to use it as a Sunday school teacher when teaching my kids and other church members.

Since I got saved, I have never spoken my mother tongue with the word of God, but T.E. helped me



to go and speak my local language to the people of Kamakwie town in the northern part of Sierra Leone. I am praying for God to help me maintain this STS method for my life and ministry in the future.

TRANSFORMATION EDUCATION

Transforming Lives and Communities

Why? To spread God's Kingdom (Love, Righteousness, Peace and Joy)

How? Strengthening teachers, serving in the name of Jesus

What? Help people know, love, and live God's Word
(Love, Go, Teach, Equip, Send)



Main Subjects Currently Taught:

Biblical values using Simply the Story, English Literacy using Jolly Phonics, Computer Skills

From Abraham Turay:

I thank God for sending Miss Gwen, the pioneer of Transformation Education, to Freetown, Sierra Leone. I first started working with Transformation Education as a volunteer cleaner in the office. At that time, the only thing I could take pride in was my experience in security work. Now, because of the training I have received at Transformation Education, I am now a counselor to my family, my church, and my community. In addition, I have gained knowledge and skills in computer use, even though I had never touched one in my life prior to my training at T.E. I have also taken new pride in the way I have learned to open doors and welcome visitors with smiling and polite words.

The most recent changes I have gained from T.E. is the Simply the Story (STS) training brought by Miss Gwen to Sierra Leone. I have been going to church for years but I never knew that telling stories in the Bible to other people is another way of doing evangelism and reaching the unreached. By using this method, I am able to tell stories to my family and I am also able to use it as a Sunday school teacher when teaching the kids and other church members. This is the best treasure I have gained as a staff member of Transformation Education. Since I got saved, I have never spoken my mother tongue with the word of God, but T.E. helped me to go and speak my local language to the people of Kamakwie town in the northern part of Sierra Leone. I am praying for God to help me maintain this STS method for my life and ministry in the future.



Terry Ortman teaching TE staff during his visit



May God Bless Transformation Education and Miss Gwen.

Terry Ortman modeling teaching/learning methods and the Biblical Based Curriculum in the school classrooms.



Morris, Zainab and Abraham Turay during Terry's visit in school classrooms modeling teaching of the Biblical Based Curriculum (BBC). Next term they plan to regularly be in schools modeling the teaching of phonics and the BBC using the STS method.



**First Christian Church
503 N. Main Street Ext.
Meadville, PA 16335**

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Meadville,
Pennsylvania

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Return Service Requested

News from
TRANSFORMATION
E D U C A T I O N

10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Newsletter



Messianic Passover at TE Resource Centre



Some of the TE staff took an opportunity to explore Sierra Leone History, Bunce Island where slave were kept and bought before they were shipped.