



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

**Thanks to your support,
The David School continues to go from strength to strength!**



Eight volunteers have recently returned from a very successful 16 day trip to the school in Sierra Leone.

This time David Wallwork was joined by his daughter, Catherine Thomas, his nephew, Ian Wallwork, Michael Houlden and four Norwegian Rotarians: Harald Indresovde, Kjell Hoydal, Per Helge Josok and John Stennes.

More Solar Panels Fitted

Thanks to fantastic fundraising by Norwegian Rotary Clubs, and the hard work of Michael Houlden and the visiting Norwegians, solar panels have been fitted to the new secondary school building. Once again, these have been supplied by Navitron Limited in Oakham. In addition to providing more lighting, and thus increasing the number of evening classes that can be run, a refrigerator for vaccines has now be installed. The circuit will also be used to power a local computer network in the future.



The School's Future Now Secure

Earlier this year, David started the process of getting the land given to him by the Temne for the school, made the legal property of the David School Trust. This Land Ownership documentation has now been completed, and the 10 acres around the school, will belong to the David School in perpetuity. This cost the trust 50,000 Leones, or approximately £7! The picture shows David meeting with the Paramount Chief (on right) and Chief Komrabai II, another senior chief.

Education Centre of Excellence

The latest group of pupils to be entered for their Primary School exams have passed. The picture shows one of them, Foday Jalloh, who scored the highest mark. The school has been so successful that it is now a training centre for student teachers in the Port Loko area of Sierra Leone. At present there are 6 final year students at the school, and over the next few years students in earlier stages of training will work at the school. Some of the older children are now studying the secondary curriculum. Some teaching materials for one of the set texts, "Kossoh Town Boy", have been produced and sent out, and are proving to be useful.





More Supplies

A container of supplies was shipped out to Freetown in early November, with the help of Police Aid Convoys and this was unloaded at the school. Uniform and shoes were given out where needed, and supplies of toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap distributed.



Roll Out the Barrel

There were 110 rolling water barrels in the container, supplied through *Roll Out the Barrel*, a Rotary initiative, and these were distributed, one to each family in the community. This allowed a **population census** to be undertaken. There are 850 people in the community, living in family groups of between 4 and 15. These barrels will not only save time, but will also reduce the physical stress on the girls who have had to carry water on their heads in the past.



Health Improvements

Alongside giving the community the opportunities to receive an education, one of the David School Trust's aims is to improve the health of the population. During this visit, two important steps forward were taken, through David's vision of forging links with other charities in the area.



Eye Tests

All the children were given an eye test, and 10% were then taken to an eye clinic run by a Belgian charity in a nearby village for further investigation by a consultant. Incredibly, one of the older boys who has passed all his exams to date, was found to have only 10% of normal vision, so he must have an very good memory to have succeeded as well as he has. With spectacles, his vision will now be 80%

Links with Local Hospital

Catherine has set up links with a hospital in Waterloo, about 15 miles from the community. This is run by Seventh Day Adventists, and has very good facilities for Sierra Leone, including their own laboratory, so that they can carry out blood tests. There are 4 doctors – a Sierra Leonian, a Filipino, and two Canadian interns.

The pictures show a child's infected hand before and after visiting the hospital.



Can YOU help?

Please help us continue the excellent work done to date.

- ✓ Can you spare just £5 a month? If so, please sponsor a child at the school. This will provide all the schooling, uniform, books etc. for a child for a month.
- ✓ We need new supplies of toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap, and school uniform. The girls wear red and white gingham dresses, and the boys grey shorts and red shirts.
- ✓ Shoes are in short supply, especially in large adult sizes up to size eleven. Any enclosed shoes (i.e. those with enclosed toes and heels) would be welcome, including trainers.

If you can help in any way, please email wallwork26@btinternet.com or visit www.thedavidschool.co.uk