

The 3 P's Trip to Sierra Leone

Peggy Murrah

Patsy Spier

Patty Bruzek

With Emmanuel Gborie



Project Updates: One goal of our 2018 November-December trip to Sierra Leone was to visit projects that had received grants from Friends of Sierra Leone over the past 5 years. We were able to visit Street Child and Tom Johnson's Africa Surgery in Freetown and 8 projects in the Bo Area.

1. Street Child in Freetown at Mudslide (August 2017) Site

- A. They are in the 3rd phase of helping Mudslide victims begin to recover. Phase 1 in August of 2017 was to meet immediate needs of water and food (FoSL members gave \$8000 in 3 weeks for this). Phase 2 was to get the students back to school and now in Phase 3 they are giving grants to the small businesses to help them get "back on their feet". They have a very organized training program for these business owners.
- B. We visited a number of the grant recipients and were able to talk with them. Photos below are of the lower end of the mudslide, a man selling totapaks, and a woman selling cassava leaf and rice.



2. Tom Johnson and Dr. Patrick Don-Davis

- A. Tom's work with Africa Surgery led us to Dr. Don-Davis, an oral surgeon in Freetown. There are very few dentists in all of Sierra Leone and there is a huge need.
- B. Dr. Don-Davis said he would like to link with Friends of Sierra Leone to put out a notice for someone to help him organize dentists to come and do dental work in Sierra Leone.

Up Country projects that have been funded by FoSL grants:

One goal was to visit the projects without them knowing ahead of time, so that we could see these projects as they are. The photos below are from the Bo. We chose that area because that is where we lived while Volunteers. Both Patsy and Patty spent a day in each of their villages, Dambara and Baiima, respectively.

- 1. **Gborie Institute for Girls to learn skills**—pan roof came off in a rainy season storm. Government has replaced the roof with a tarp so far.



- 2. **Paul School for the Blind**—we give a yearly scholarship for students. These scholarships are often used for transportation by the secondary school students.



3. **Ebert Kakua School for the Deaf**—2012 for water tank and 2018 Solar. Both are being well used!



4. **Blama PreSchool**—2016 Completion of construction. School is now complete and the dedication and opening was in January. Very nice facility.



5. **Tikonko Rural Health Birthing Room**—2016 grant for wells and latrines. The wells and latrines are an integral part of this facility.



6. **Bumpe Green Africa Women’s Vegetable Marketing Program**—This was a grant from 2013 and we could find no evidence of this project anywhere in the town. We asked the women the village market and they did not know anything about the project at all. **Update on this:** We were able to look online when we returned home and found out that the villages involved in this project were outside of Bumpe and Tikonko. This has been a very successful project.

7. **Baiima**—2015 Health Clinic improvements. We found the clinic improved and doing well.



8. **Mandu**—We were able to visit with Mamie Gbani and see the women’s cooperative in action. They are doing well and expanding with a new storage facility





Cloth at the market in Freetown.
home!



Notice the "dish" on the very old



Do you remember the totapacks?



Our

friend received specially wrapped cola for her wedding.





Some things never change!

Patsy meeting a teacher she worked with 40 years ago!



Meeting PCV Alli in Dambara



All the village cell phones getting charged at the Baiima cell tower



Children in Baiima

Patsy showing the “world” to students



Patsy going to the school in Baiima and finding out that one of her students from 40 years ago is now the teacher!