

WATER IS LIFE | Sierra Leone 2008

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Where is Sierra Leone?

Why Sierra Leone? It's the poorest country in the world.

On the UN Human Development Index, out of 177 Nations SL is dead last.

\$142 Dollars a year ... let the magnitude of that kind of poverty sink in.

If you're a SL'n extremely fortunate if you live to see 60 years of age.

Worst of all, infant mortality is 1 out of 5.

What's the problem? SL is recovering from a brutal civil war.

If you saw the movie blood diamond, you've got a picture of what went on. 1991 Guerillas from the Liberian Civil war spilled over the borders intent on capturing diamond mines. A local rebel group joined forces ... Lust for power and diamonds fueled 10 years of civil war.

We saw the remnants of the war everywhere.

Horrific acts were committed by rebels ... mass murders, systematic rape, abductions, and probably what the war is most infamous for, chopping off of limbs and other body parts to strike terror into the hearts of the population.

Dr. JoAnne Lyon introduced us to a community leader, lost both arms to the rebels.

In spite of all this bad news, what we discovered something really surprising.

How Happy the people of Sierra Leone are today.

My son said, "People here get depressed over almost nothing, these people have every reason to be sad, yet they are so happy!"

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The Civil War ended. They've put it in the past. Looking forward.

They have a strong leader, wildly popular, who has turned the country around, put an end to rampant corruption,

Electricity in Freetown, 1st time since 1991, turned on 2 weeks as we arrived.

Working hard to bring foreign investors

Everybody had cell phones ...

There is a palpable sense of Hope as you move about the country.

During the War, only of the only NGOs that stayed to bring relief was WHI. We met leaders in the community, grown men who wept openly when they saw Dr. JoAnne Lyon "You saved our lives."

Because WHI is held in such high regard, we landed on a Monday, on Tuesday we were invited to the State House to visit with the **President of Sierra Leone, His Excellency, Dr. Ernest Koroma.**

Dr. Lyon brought greetings from President Bush and the United States. Gave about a 5 minute report on the progress of World Hope in the areas of
Anti-Trafficking
Micro-Credit
Over 50 new well projects in the last year.

The President spoke to us for the next 20 minutes about the progress the country was making and the challenges still ahead.

Even though the war ended in 2001, 80% of the population **still live in extreme poverty.** Extreme poverty represents people who live on less than \$1 per day and; therefore, do not generate enough income to have access the most basic need of life, clean water.

This is Sierra Leone's greatest problems ...

Only 30% of the people living in rural, northern Sierra Leone have access to clean water.

Without access to basic needs such as clean water, disease and illness spread quickly.
Without access to water, the most vulnerable, cannot survive this level of poverty

Poverty and clean water are intimately linked. Without clean water many people are sick with water borne illnesses. Bath, animals, relieve themselves, and drink same source.

90% of deaths from water borne diseases occur in children under five years of age.

President Koroma: "We have over 1000 villages & communities that lack access to pure water, ..." Access to clean water is crucial in decreasing child mortality,

WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL is Providing clean water sources is already making a world of difference. WHI is actively addressing the need for clean water.

We saw first hand the impact wells can make!

People came for miles to a well dedication, David Cranor had the honor.

Children lined up, one older man, this was the biggest event of his life.

Whole villages gathered ... here's a whole village standing in front of the well drill rig.

So grateful, all the women of the community started singing and dancing ...

Thank you!

We asked ourselves ... What can we do?

1 well drilling rig can produce a well a week, max 50 a year.

1000 Villages need water now. What if we could double or even triple production capacity?

1 rig can drill 50 wells in a year = \$150,000 ...

We can be someone's miracle right now.

We have decided to respond to this urgent need in Sierra Leone.

We have committed to give \$150,000 to buy this New Well Drilling Rig. The need is now and it can't wait. 1,000 villages.

We can be their miracle right now.

How do you process all this?

Do we just leave here feeling guilty for our lives here in this affluent part of the US? Is guilt the only motivator to give?

Here is what I've learned ... associating guilt with what you have in your possession doesn't not contribute to anything positive.

Long term it doesn't do anything good.

The reason you have what you have doesn't have as much to do with you as people think it does.

- You didn't control where you were born.
- You didn't pick your parents.
- You didn't control the opportunities you were given. Like school.
- You didn't control all of the good things that happened to you
so there's no reason to feel guilty.

If someone gives you something you don't feel guilty—you feel grateful!

One of the things we have to learn as rich people ... I'm not going to feel guilty anymore ... I'm going to feel grateful, because of all that God has given to me.

"Well, I've worked for my money."

Met people in SL who work harder than you.

I don't even know you, but there are people I met people who out-work you!

They walk 6 miles before work just to get water for the day. Working hard doesn't make you successful. There are things that happened to you that were just providential. So if God allowed you to manage more of his resources from day to day then just feel grateful!

So there is **no point hanging onto guilt for what you have.**

In fact, guilt will just paralyze you.

Guilt makes you change the channel when info like this comes one ...

So when I see pictures like we saw today ... I'm learning to remember.

God has put everything I have into my hands.

I'm not going to feel guilty. I'm going to feel grateful.

God, thank you, thank you ... I feel so grateful.

Teach me how to be most responsible steward of what You have given me.

I want to model it for my kids. I want to model it for the next generation.

Imagine what can we do ...

Forget guilt, and replace it gratitude

and leverage gratitude as a motivator to do something really great!

- 1,000 Villages need water now.
- How many wells could we provide over the next three years?
- We can be someone else's miracle today!

Please consider a generous and sacrificial gift to provide water for the people of Sierra Leone. Please make your check payable to:

Please make your check payable to:

HEARTLAND CHURCH
Sierra Leone Well Drill Project
9665 Hague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46256

All donations are tax deductible.

I close with this Video Clip <<BONO>>

Imagine what would happen if we were able to do this?

ONCE AGAIN we have the opportunity to be a miracle for someone else!