



## EBOLA

BY DARYL LARGIS

*“... let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” ~I John 3:17*



Through the Sierra Leone Alliance of WNY's Food Program, 154 homes in Sierra Leone under quarantine received life-saving, nutritious food in November. This represents more than 750 people who have been helped including more than 100 orphans.

Discovered in 1976, this terrible disease has continued to emerge sporadically in places throughout Africa. However, nothing previously has even come close to the current crisis facing Western Africa. According to the CDC, as of December 13, the present outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone has infected more than 18,000 people and claimed 6,841 lives ([www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html)). This is truly a crisis that threatens the cultural fabric of the nations in which it is active.

Obviously, there is the direct impact of this disease in which those who are sick are isolated in make-shift triage holding centers at the edge of the village while their family is quarantined. In some places, entire villages or areas are quarantined in hopes of stopping the spread of the disease. However, this isolation approach creates other challenges for those who are not sick. How are they to get food and other medical supplies, and how are others to support those needing help but not necessarily sick? What about people in

these areas who have other sicknesses when all available resources are now consumed fighting Ebola? This becomes a seemingly impossible situation as it creates an immediate crisis for those infected, and then a far wider crisis for those in the surrounding community by threatening their ability to eat, to care for others, and to care for the children being orphaned. In addition, several important community services are suspended in these situations such as school and other civic functions of the government.

Many valiant people are responding to this crisis to help with the primary need of caring for those infected. This is needed and something we all should encourage from our respective governments and from those that can offer such support. Isolating these nations and communities from help does not help. They need resources to build more hospital beds and more resources as in workers and medical supplies to care for the people infected. So, what can we do?

We can pray for those there, and we can work together with who we know and what we have. In fact, this very thing is happening. The Sierra Leone Alliance of Western New York has been meeting, discussing and implementing a plan to bring food to these communities. Food is a huge challenge in communities that are impacted by Ebola given they are basically cut off from the outside world. Many families in these communities are literally locked down in their homes for weeks while the incubation period comes and goes. While they wait, they begin to wrestle with starvation. In desperation, some in quarantine have and will continue to escape to find food creating more chaos for the community. These families are faced with an incredible dilemma—wait at home and starve, or risk the wrath of the community/authorities to get food. This is where we have determined we can make the biggest impact today.

In Sierra Leone, the disease has infected more than 8,000 people and has caused over

2,000 deaths. The Alliance feels compelled to engage in helping those there and, in fact, is doing so. While we are not equipped to tackle the disease directly, we are equipped to help in other ways. Although there will be other needs as time passes, food remains one of the most critical needs we can help meet.

Accordingly, the Sierra Leone Alliance of WNY has put into motion a Food Program for the next 12 months that enables the Alliance to work through its in-country network led by indigenous leaders, to feed families in most need in the communities in which we have relationships. Through the Food Program Initiative the Alliance has touched 154 houses in Sierra Leone under quarantine in November. This represents more than 750 people who have been helped including over 100 orphans. These numbers will grow as this program becomes more established commensurate with the resources available. It should be noted that the threat of Ebola is real and tangible given 18 of the 750 people helped during the month of November died as a result of this terrible disease.

I am truly thankful that we have the opportunity to work alongside others in Western New York who comprise the Alliance. The common mission, heart and mind to make a difference is truly unique for it demonstrates a reality in the Kingdom that is unfortunately all too rare but nonetheless encouraged in Scripture. The response of those connected to The Chapel over the last few of weeks has been nothing short of astounding noting that more than \$50,000 has been raised to fund the Food Program. This money will enable this program to operate as planned well into 2015. Thank you and may God get all of the praise and glory! How He works in and through the hearts of his people is amazing.

We will continue to engage in Sierra Leone and do what we can to bring help, hope, and light to a place and a people desperately needing it. As we do, God is glorified for the prayers and pleas of those there are answered.

*To learn more about the Sierra Leone Alliance of WNY, check this year's edition of On Mission magazine available on our Resources page at [thechapel.com/kingdomcome](http://thechapel.com/kingdomcome) or in paper form in the atrium at our CrossPoint Campus. ✨*

– NEWS BRIEF –

SHINE THE LIGHT



By Amy Tartick

Each year, The Chapel partners with several local ministries to bring the joy of Christmas to families and individuals in need throughout Western New York via a Christmas gift campaign. This year's theme is "Shine the Light" and encourages people to live out Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." In tangible ways, folks at The Chapel demonstrated what it means to shine God's Light by providing food, clothing, household goods and small appliances, personal care products, blankets, winter coats, hats, mittens and gloves, devotional books, baby care essentials (diapers, blankets, bottles, clothes, etc.), and toys for children from birth through 18 years of age.

Shine the Light was held on all three of The Chapel's campuses in Cheektowaga, Getzville, and Lockport from November 17, through December 7. This year we had 11 local Christmas partners that in total gave The Chapel a wish list of more than 1,200 items, and much more than that was generously given through our folks here. All of these gifts received at The Chapel have been given to our Christmas partners for proper distribution in time for Christmas. Our hope is that many will see our good deeds by the light of Christ this holiday season and in turn praise God for His goodness, mercy and love.

Kingdom Come would like to express a very heartfelt thank you to our staff, volunteers, and entire Chapel family who helped make this year's Christmas campaign an opportunity for every man, woman, and child to see, hear, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your family richly this Christmas! ✨

– LOCAL CONNECTION –

Interested in getting involved with one of our local ministry partners? Here are some places for you to start serving!

**BUFFALO CITY MISSION  
CORNERSTONE MANOR**  
716.854.8181  
[buffalocitymission.org](http://buffalocitymission.org)

**COMMUNITY MISSIONS**  
716.285.3403  
[communitymissions.org](http://communitymissions.org)

**DESTINATION LIFE  
FELLOWSHIP**  
585-356-2105  
[facebook.com/destinationlifefellowship](https://facebook.com/destinationlifefellowship)

**JOURNEY'S END REFUGEE  
SERVICES**  
716.882.4963 | [jersbuffalo.org](http://jersbuffalo.org)

**NORTHTOWN PREGNANCY  
CENTER**  
716.517-1705  
[northtownpregnancycenter.com](http://northtownpregnancycenter.com)

**SONRAYS MINISTRIES**  
716.695.9494  
[sonraysministries.org](http://sonraysministries.org)

**LOCKPORT CARENET**  
716.434.1771 | [lockportcarenet.com](http://lockportcarenet.com)

**SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES**  
716.893.1840 | [sgmworld.org](http://sgmworld.org)

**ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH**  
716.433.5252 | [stjohnslockport.org](http://stjohnslockport.org)

*For a complete list of ministry partners, visit [thechapel.com/kingdomcome](http://thechapel.com/kingdomcome).*

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

**DECEMBER 24, 2014  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Come join us for one of our four identical Christmas Eve services at 12pm, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm at both the CrossPoint and Lockport campuses. This will be our annual candlelight family service.

**DEC. 24, 2014–JAN. 1, 2015**

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

In observance of Christmas and New Year's Day, The Chapel offices will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and reopen Friday, January 2, 2015. May God bless you with a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year!

*The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.*