



## "I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT..."

BY AMY TARTICK

*Sharing a meal with children, God's most precious blessings to us . . .*



*Global Outreach Mission Manna Project: There was much excitement and joy to be seen as boys and girls waited patiently, and lined up for a hot meal, prepared lovingly by the women of the village and GOM team members. Full tummies and empty bowls soon followed!*

Last month, the Sierra Leone Alliance (SLA) gathered for its quarterly meeting. It is a unique privilege to hear how each member organization is fulfilling God's Mission of ensuring that every man, woman, and child has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I often think of Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in," and realize that what the Alliance does is, by in large, what that verse looks like lived out in many ways.

At this gathering, Global Outreach Mission (GOM), a member of the SLA, shared that they are launching a new project as an emergency response to the crisis need for nutritious food for children

in Sierra Leone. Still recovering from a devastating civil war, this is a nation where the majority of the population earns less than two dollars a day with little to no opportunity of changing their economic situation. Lack of clean water and malnutrition are major causes of Sierra Leone having the world's highest rate of mortality for children under five years of age. Global Outreach Mission also expressed that sanitation, lack of health care, and young mothers who do not know how to properly feed their children are integral parts of this complex problem. (UNICEF reports that more than 300,000 of Sierra Leone's children in this age range suffer from being malnourished.)

GOM is responding to more than 200 young children diagnosed with severe malnutrition in Moyamba, a district

located in the southern portion of Sierra Leone. A recent survey by ACF International (a global humanitarian organization) reported that 3.8% of the children living in Moyamba are malnourished to the point of it being a life-threatening condition. In collaboration with District Health Authorities, GOM is setting up two Stabilization Centers designed to treat the most critical cases among children and mothers with newborns.

In order to provide the meals needed, GOM sought help across our borders in Canada where they found Ontario Christian Gleaners. This organization was founded by farmers and operates with volunteers who dehydrate fresh surplus food for soup or to use as a rice additive. Three pounds of the soup mix provides

100 meals when rehydrated at a cost of about 25¢ per meal. After field testing the product, GOM has a pallet load on the way to Sierra Leone which should provide 22,000 meals. Currently, GOM is working on a sustainable model to best implement the food use and distribution.

This time of year puts us about midway into the trifecta of feasting holiday meals and parties. Thanksgiving has passed, Christmas will soon be here, with New Year's quickly following. There seems to be a steady stream (and sometimes a flood-stage river) of holiday treats at home, work, and social gatherings. These celebrations bring out the generosity of our kitchens with abundant savory meals topped off with a plethora of sweet treats. With all these amazing blessings of God, it is sometimes hard to imagine an empty plate and we can't remember when the last time our stomachs complained of needing food.

*“ . . . whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

~Matthew 25:40

However, there are families, children, who start the day with little or nothing to eat and sadly go to bed each evening the same way. To find out more about GOM's emergency feeding program and their other ministry initiatives in Sierra Leone, visit [missiongo.org](http://missiongo.org) (click on The Mission, then Projects).

Your faithful support of Kingdom Come at The Chapel, is so greatly appreciated and helps make our partnerships with members of the Sierra Leone Alliance possible. Thank you and may God bless you and your family richly this Christmas season!

*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.*

– NEWS BRIEF –



THANK YOU!

On behalf of Kingdom Come, we would like to say a heartfelt, “Thank You!” to everyone who helped make The Chapel's Operation Blessing an effective tool to share the gospel, by providing gifts for so many people this Christmas season!

Some of our busiest Chapel ministries and even an individual family took on key leadership roles and the tasks involved with making this year's Christmas initiatives possible. They connected with our partners, ascertained needs, recruited volunteers for the gift tables on Sunday mornings and more. From toiletry gift sets, warm blankets, boxes of toys and household items, to shoes, slippers, hats, scarves and gloves, literally hundreds of gifts poured in over the four Sundays we hosted Operation Blessing. Chapel volunteers received, inspected and boxed the gifts for transport.

With grateful hearts full of the joy of Christmas, we offer a special thank you to all who fulfilled leadership roles, the volunteers who hosted our Sunday gift tables and helped with follow up, and especially our Chapel family who continues to be amazingly generous.

We pray that God blesses you tremendously this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas!



**The Chapel's**  
**Operation Blessing**  
being rich in good deeds through generosity and sharing

– LOCAL CONNECTION –

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

DESTINATION LIFE FELLOWSHIP

22nd Street & Linwood Ave  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716.297.7799

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Several local locations  
716.743.2020  
[heritagechristianservices.org](http://heritagechristianservices.org)

LOCKPORT CARENET

229 East Avenue  
Lockport, NY 14094  
716.434.1771  
[lockportcarenet.com](http://lockportcarenet.com)

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

PO Box 2657  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
[info@niagaramissions.com](mailto:info@niagaramissions.com)

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 1013  
Williamsville, NY 14231  
716.893.1840  
[sgmworld.org](http://sgmworld.org)

XCEL LEADERSHIP CENTER

567 Hertel Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
716.819.4100 x295  
[xcellleadershipcenter.com](http://xcellleadershipcenter.com)

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

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

DECEMBER 19, 5-7:30PM  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the party at XCEL for an evening of reindeer games, prizes, dinner and the JOY of Christmas! Many service opportunities are available! For more information, email [MoreInfo@xcellleadershipcenter.com](mailto:MoreInfo@xcellleadershipcenter.com) or call 716.819.4100 x110.

DECEMBER 24, 2013  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Celebrate Christ's birth at one of four identical Christmas Eve worship gatherings at The Chapel at CrossPoint at 12, 2, 4, and 6pm, or at The Chapel at Lockport at 4pm. We hope to see you there!