



## NEWSLETTER

November 2021

## Volume 15 Issue 3

Transformation Education  
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**Beloved Friends/Partners of Transformation Education,**

We aim to have communities where everyone continually matures with excellence in God's love and in abilities.

It is a pleasure to reflect on, thank God and celebrate with you this joyful journey. The Newsletter Topics are:

1. School Mentorship Program (SMP), 2. Wise Community Program, 3. Staff and Board Members, 4. Adoption, 5. Prayer Requests

**1.A. School Mentorship Program**

We wrote a concept paper and submitted it to the Teaching Service Commission, teacher training Department of the Ministry of Education. Although it was applauded and appreciated, we did not get funding for it. We can pray that they will provide funding next year. We are implementing a small-scale version of what we proposed. Hopefully they will appreciate the impact of our micro version.

From the beginning the program sought to address the issue of English Literacy taking the following steps. We have accomplished goals 1-5. The others are in progress.

1. The identification of suitable trainers.
2. By building on the capacities of trainers.
3. By establishing networks with two (2) primary schools in Freetown.
4. By having an agreement with school authorities about the use of local resources.
5. By informing the direct and indirect beneficiaries about the project content.
6. By training Trainers, Teachers and Pupils on the correct usage of phonetics and of reading and writing strategies.
7. By monitoring, evaluating, and motivating beneficiaries with regular evaluation and participatory videos.
8. By establishing classroom libraries.
9. By going to the local library.
10. By having the students write and illustrate and launch their own book for Author's Day.

**School Mentorship Program Report By Deputy Abraham Bangura**

I am grateful for what God is doing in Transformation Education. We had 5 weeks of Training of Teacher Trainers from 3rd August through 3rd September 2021. The training covering Biblical World View and Character, English Literacy, Phonics, Reading and Writing Strategies, Classroom Management, Handwriting, Basic Math and Calendar. We had 18 participants and 2 facilitators Miss. Gwen and myself. The participants were given turns to practice leading sessions and activities, including Bible study, reflection from past teaching, calendar/math.

We hired 4 of the trainers to work with Transformation Education for this school year. We are working in two schools, one private and one government assisted school. Our TE Trainers are working at the schools 3 days a week. Monday and Wednesday they are teaching in the classroom and modeling for the teachers. On Friday they train the teachers for two hours after school. We monitor and support the Trainers in their selected school.

I thank God for the testimony and transformation that is happen in the two schools we are working with. The students are identifying the letter sounds, writing them, and blending the sounds to make words. Most of the teachers didn't know the sounds of the letter when we started working with them, now they are teaching them.

Thank you for your continued support and prayer as we partner together in building God Kingdom and increasing the literacy rate in Sierra Leone.

## Practical Experience During Training of Trainers

One strength of the August training of the trainers is the immediate opportunity to implement their newly learned methods with monitoring and evaluation. The participants were trained from 9-3 pm, then from 3:30-4:30 pm they taught the content to the children from the community. Staff from TE's Wise Community Program coordinated for 15 first graders, 15 second graders and 15 third graders to participate. This provided the trainers with the experience of making the classroom materials needed, practice classroom and behavior management as well as new methods of teaching.



## 1.B. School Mentorship Program (SMP) By Teacher Trainer

*Anthony Koroma*

It is of a great pleasure to write this article in order to express my sincere gratitude to Transformation Education for giving me the opportunity to be part of the August training workshop in 2021 and to work in the School Mentorship Program.

First I want to share the impact this training has had in my life specifically the morning devotions. I have been helped personally with Three Thirds. This is where we divide our Bible Study time into three parts. First, look back by worshipping God and giving account for our spiritual development. Second, look up by studying a new teaching from God's Word. Third, look forward by planning how to implement the new teaching prayerfully and intentionally. We set personal growth goal and goals to go share God's Word with others. We answer the question what do we plan to do to grow and to whom do we plan to go share the teaching. The Three Thirds method is a great eye opener for my spiritual growth.

The second impact is on the area of the Constructive Discipline Plan (CDP). The CDP makes it clear to me that a child can have a consequence as a result of his/her action without spanking. CDP's use of positive reinforcement helps the student's character to improve. CDP also helped me to know and teach that in every lesson there are expectations and set goals to be accomplished.

The third impact is in the aspect of literacy which encompasses the phonics, handwriting and calendar work. To me it has been a great experience to learn the phonics without much stress and to use it to decode words. That has helped me in much of my vocabulary and my reading capacity enabling me to equip myself thoroughly and be competent to work as a school teacher trainer for the betterment of my country.

I encourage the organization to extend this great opportunity that I have enjoyed for these few months to every part of the country for the betterment of our education system, from the foundation.

I work with Hannah at a private school called Covenant Preparatory.

Teachers and students at Covenant Prep, like members of most schools in Sierra Leone, have the challenge of an unconducive learning environment. It is crowded. They lack necessary furniture, books, and learning materials, such as paper, pencils, markers, tape... The building is used by others in the evenings and on weekends, so many of the materials on the wall are quickly damaged.

I want to specially thank the country director and staff of Transformation Education (TE). God has used Madam Gwen Joy Smith to offer me the opportunity to share in what He is about to do in my country, Sierra Leone, through literacy and the Biblical Based Curriculum. It will help the foundation of our education system. Special thanks also to colleague staff for the great and efficient team work in propelling what God has sent us to do as a ministry.

Finally, I want to give a special thanks to the various supporters and sponsors of Transformation Education Sierra Leone. May God continue to bless and keep you as you are laboring both with your financial support and your prayers that the message of Christ will be preach every where in Sierra Leone. Thanks, we really appreciate all that you have done and will continue to do for us as citizens of Sierra Leone. We pray and hope that Jesus will be the message in every part of the world.



### To help support TE financially:

#### **Postal Check:**

Transformation Education  
PO Box 914  
Meadville, PA 16335

#### **Online Banking Info for Transformation Education Incorporated:**

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Account number 2566086621



## **2. Wise Community: So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 KJV.**

James Tragott is our new Wise Community leader who joined Mr. Jusu at the end of July. The former leader Mr. Yusufu had to leave for other responsibilities.

### **Mr. James Tragott Reports:**

**Purpose:** The Wise Community Project's mission is to develop a community where everyone continually matures in God's Love and in abilities. Our goals are: 1. The community members will proactively seek, find, and dwell in God's Kingdom, of love, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 2. The community member will prayerfully, seek, share, and seize opportunities for themselves and their neighbors to grow in Godly wisdom and in abilities. Wisdom is understanding God's ways and obeying them.

**Our targets are** 4 adults minimum being discipled to lead the Discipleship Group movement. 4 adults minimum being discipled to lead the children's Bible Studies (Wisdom Club for Kids)

**New Discipleship Groups:** We have two groups specifically focused on being Disciples and Disciple Makers. There are 8 disciples in the Jomo Kenyatta Group and 6 in the Hill Cut group. Each group has been studying how to share the gospel and how to disciple other people, and presently they are studying some of Christ's Commands (repentance, prayer, gathering, responsibilities of disciples and church members.)

The Jomo Kenyatta Road Group's maturity is evident through baptism and self-led Bible Studies. Six of these disciples asked and were baptized the 13th of November. The community has started a community morning devotion, in which people come out of their houses and meet in the common area from 5:30 am - 6:00 am to share the Word of God and pray together.



### **Biblical Based Character Groups**

#### **Wise Community Kids**

Every Saturday off Jomo Kenyatta Road we have kids Bible club from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm for children up to 17 years of age. They come with an excited spirit to learn God's word, literacy skills, and games.

Attendance ranges from thirty (30) to sixty (60) per week.



#### **Sunday Bible Study Group**

The two adult Bible studies that were started in April continue to meet. They are called TK Drive and Brighter Future. **TK Drive Group** meets from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Three to six people gather. Then we take a 10 - 15 minute walk to meet with the **Brighter Future Group**.



#### **Community Gathering**

Every two (2) months we have a community gathering with the kids, youth, and adults. During this gathering we have a friendly quiz competition based on the recent lessons, Bible Study, refreshments and games. \*\*We thank God for what the Lord is doing in the communities through the Wise Community Project.\*\*

#### **Testimonies**

1. Miss Bikinsu (youth) said, "The Wisdom Club for Kids has greatly impacted my younger brother. His academic performance was weak. The teachings and prayers during the Bible study has helped him. His academic performance is very good now. Before he could not read properly, but now he can read very well. Glory to God!"

2. Mr. Eward B. (adult) said, "I am a member of the Bible study group at TK Drive. I thank God for what the Lord is doing in my spiritual life and family. Before then I do not have assurance of my salvation. By studying the word of God together during our Bible study, I have confidence and well assured of my faith in Christ. I can boldly share my faith with others that do not know Christ."



Pictured: Gwen Joy Smith and Mrs. Helen Keili as Transformation Education expresses appreciation with a plaque.

#### **Modern has graciously supported TE**

- 1. Use of a classroom for an office 2018-2021!**
- 2. Use of classrooms for trainings and meetings!**
- 3. Use of the boarding school for teachers from the provinces to stay during the August trainings!**
- 4. Use of their truck to help with hauling while moving!**
- 5. Mrs. Helen Keili is an active supportive TE chairperson!**
- 6. Although our office has moved the mailing address remains at Modern High!**

## Personnel

### Former TE Staff Update

1. **Divine Heritage Home** directed by **Prince Sama**, cofounder of Transformation Education is happily building a home for their 23 vulnerable children on 10 acres of land that is their own. The foundation is almost completed. They have a goal to be finished by July 2022. God continues to generously provide for them, it is a joy to be a part of how God is building His Kingdom through Divine Heritage Home. Their rice and pigs agriculture projects helps the children grow in responsibility.



2. **EduNations** presided by **Samuel Sesay**, former Resource Centre Manager of Transformation Education is advancing God's Kingdom through 15 churches with primary and junior high schools throughout Sierra Leone, some in remote villages. This year they celebrated the opening of a Senior High boarding school.

3. **Abraham Turay**, who worked with TE for 9 years is now ministering in his home village and the surrounding villages in his Chiefdom. He was able to include an update about his ministry in this newsletter.

4. **Morris Sherman** who had worked with TE for 3-4 years is now working with Children in Christ.

### Transformation Education Current Staff:

Long Term Staff: **Gwendolyn Joy Smith**,  
(pictured with Gwen is her  
newly adopted daughter  
Melanie Joy Taylor Smith)



**Abraham Bangura**



TE Schools Mentorship Program:  
**Anthony Koroma, Hannah Gborie, Dahlia Kargbo, Salamatu Conneh.**



Volunteer:  
**Sylvester Fillie**



Wise Community Program: **James Tragott, Jusu Koroma**



### Transformation Education Board

#### **Sierra Leone**

- Chairperson: *Mrs. Helen Keili*
- Vice Chairperson: *Solomon Gorvie*
- Treasurer: *Prince Sama*
- Secretary: *Gwendolyn Joy Smith*
- Members: *Ayo Betts-Priddy, Ben Margai, Victor MacCauley, Yvonne Gibril*

### Transformation Education USA Volunteers

#### **USA**

- Chairperson: *Jack Flaugh*
- Vice Chairperson: *Lynda Jacobs*
- Treasurer: *Allison Carlson*
- Secretary: *Joy Ward*

#### • Prayer and Newsletter Coordinator: *Pauline Hartick*

- Events and Media: *Ruth Andel, Ivy Boor*
- Website: *Lucinda Tirondola*

Pictured Right: Melanie Joy Taylor Smith with **Miss Ayo Betts-Priddy**: TE Board Member and Melanie's Adoption Lawyer



## My Disciple Making Experience By Abraham Turay

I started by making a relationship map of people I knew who were not living in the love of Christ and prayed for people of upper Tonko Limba region. I entered Linti Village through one person of peace, by the name of Pa Samah Dumbuya. I followed Jesus example from John 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”

By the grace of God I started teaching them about discipleship as it says in Matthew 28:18-20, everything in this earth belong to Jesus, He asked us to go and make disciples of all nations. Mr. Samah received the Christian Gospel when I taught him using the 3 Circles illustration. He asked me to go and stay with him in his village as he was looking for the truth. We started with his two wives and the children but one of his wives did not continue. We are still praying for her to get saved. The children got saved and he opened his house for us to have fellowship and teach the good news of Christ.

The love we are sharing moved the whole village. They open their houses to us for meetings. They said they want to move from sin and come to the God of the Christian. When the farmers rest from their farm work, they share the 3 Circles Gospel illustration and other bible stories I teach them. Also, when the women have to wait at the water side where they fetch water, they draw on the ground the 3 circle and begin to teach each other. Only a few of the villagers are not Christian. The older villagers are still maintaining the old religion. The young and the middle age, all are coming to our fellowship, and they are reaching out to other villages making disciples of Christ.

Masa Mapiedien is another village the good news has reached. There are 8 new Christians. Unfortunately, we lost one member on the 23rd October 2021. He went to be with the Lord at a time that I was away from the village. The Muslims refused to touch his death body to help bury him, because he became a Christian. I had to call the other disciples to go and do the burial. We thank God because he knew Christ as his Saviour.

**Isatu S. Dumbuya**, is a **12 year** old daughter of poor farmers. She is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Early one morning she ran to meet me at my residence. She was crying. I asked her, “Why?” She said, “I need help, Pastor. I want to tell you a secret. How can you help me? A neighbor woman and my mom want to give me to an **early marriage** of a man from the neighbor village. They said my father will not be able to pay my school fees and other charges in the school, so they want me to marry. But I don’t want to marry now. They have been pushing me for the past two months.” Isatu knew if she told her father the neighbor woman would cause serious problems for her, so she was **afraid**. I prayed with her then she went to school.

When I called and told her 47 year old father. The father burst into tears with discouragement and fear. We prayed together and I agreed that I help him handle the matter with love.

I called the woman who was pushing Isatu to get married to help her understand the laws of the state but the woman refused to understand. Instead she started asking me a lot of questions trying to find out, who told me? The next morning the father and the girl went to the police station. The police had the woman go to the station. When she returned she called a secret meeting. At the meeting **they planned to take Isatu by force to the forest and have a Bondo secret society meeting so Isatu would learn how to have secrets and respect women.**

A Christian sister told me of this plan. I called my wife in Freetown and told her the plan of the women here. She asked me to escape with Isatu immediately to Freetown. She said even though we don’t have anything because things are difficult **come with her so we can save her life**. I brought her in Freetown on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, she started schooling last week, **we prayed for provision and God to keep her safe with us**.

Another story is about a girl name **Masaray Sesay** who was deathly sick. **She was about to be taken to a native doctor so she can be join to the secret society**. Masaray told her parent to call me to pray for her. She said she doesn’t want to bow down to images again. **She remembered** the message I had taught about Moses warning the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 4:22-24, our **God is a jealous God**. I **prayed** for her and reported the matter to Miss Gwen of Transformation Education. Miss Gwen **sent money** for me to take her to the government hospital. Now she is **healed**. She did well on her school exams and she is one of the **strongest members** in the Christian fellowship. **Praise the Lord** for a wonderful work Miss Gwen is doing in this nation. The ministry is **spreading** the work is **growing**. My **prayer** is for more **soul to be save** and also **financial support** for the work in **Kambia**. By Abraham Turay

## Prayer Requests

*Please join us to pray the following for everyone associated with Transformation Education from the child beneficiaries to the board members: agape love, wisdom, unity, saved souls, trained, transformed, equipped disciples and trainers, protection, traveling mercies, mutually edifying partnerships, compassion, provision for the daily bread, transportation, housing and medical. We greatly appreciate the time and energy you spend to go through our stories and to pray with us.*





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# News from **TRANSFORMATION** EDUCATION

Transformation Education envisions communities where everyone continually matures with excellence in God's love and in abilities. This includes the building of formal and informal basis of Education for people of all ages focusing especially on Biblical World View, and English Literacy.

It is a pleasure to reflect on, thank God and celebrate with you this joyful journey.

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