FALL 2017

ACTION

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

2017 SIERRA LEONE MUDSLIDES

In the early morning on August 14th, just outside Sierra Leone's capital city of Freetown, a mountainside collapsed, unleashed by what many consider this West African nation's worst natural disaster in decades. An above average rainy season (41 inches since July 1) followed by three days of torrential rains and widespread flooding triggered several devastating mudslides that came crashing into this coastal city. Massive rivers of mud and debris barreled down the mountain, ravaging the countryside and blanketing the homes of unsuspecting Sierra Leoneans as they slept. Although heavy rainfall was the primary cause of these deadly mudslides, other factors, including the city's below sea level elevation, poor infrastructure, and ineffective drainage system, exacerbated their destructive impact.

Two days after the mudslides, local government officials confirmed 500 dead while rescue workers believed the death toll to be double that—closer to 1,000. As of October 13th, hundreds, as many as 800, were still missing and feared dead. The August 14th mudslides likewise destroyed or damaged hundreds of buildings, leaving more than 3,000 homeless.

At the time of the mudslides, Freetown Christians in Action missionaries, Reverend Issa and Daphne Kargbo, were in the US on a much needed furlough. Devastated by news of this disaster, they felt helpless from afar, yet rallied folks to pray. They began to mobilize funds for the needs of their people when Pastor Daniel Bona, acting on their behalf in Freetown, reported that 20 relatives of various church members had perished in the mudslides, the bodies of some yet to be recovered.

Two weeks after the initial flooding and resulting mudslides, a group gathered in a Sierra Leonean CinA church to mourn the loss of one of their own. Heavy rains continued, trapping all the mourners for more than three hours while several of their cars, parked outside the church, were swept away and mangled by the crushing flood waters. Inconceivably, a little girl suddenly slipped from the grasp of her mother's hands and was quickly swept away in the rapid current.

Reverend Isssa and his wife, Daphne, arrived home in Freetown on September 15. They ask for continued prayer for families who have lost loved ones, homes, and possessions as well as prayer for those who have responded to the call to conduct the harrowing search and recovery of the deceased. They face a great need for food, clothing, shelter, and medical supplies.

Issa writes: *"God is good; and all the time, He is good. We don't understand why this took place, but in the good times and in the bad times, we will continue to lift up His name and trust in Him. In everything we are commanded to give thanks, so we say, "Thank-you, Lord!"*

To contribute to flood/mudslide recovery to Sierra Leone, please visit cinami.org

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION
MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Proclaiming Christ to the Nations

Mark 16:15 And He said to them,
"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel
to all creation." NASB

GIFTS AND TALENTS: A BEAUTIFUL SURPRISE

by Tammy Mercer *After attending a LARMS trip to Medellin, Colombia*

What gifts and talents do you hold? How gifted must one be in order to share that gifting? Is my gift, for me alone? Or is it for me to share? These are questions I ask myself. And when God answers…It's A Beautiful Surprise.

There's something overwhelming and attractive about the body of Christ coming together for one purpose. Just as He calls His own to one accord, He equips them on many levels. The beauty of one community reaching out to another is beyond words. To be willing to take a step of faith and follow God's lead is the most beautiful thing. When God equips and purposes to invite you to join Him in His kingdom work, the only response is, yes, Lord. He does the work. We only have to be affirmed in it by His Holy Spirit.

I remember well the day Stephanie, from Christians in Action (CinA), came and spoke at our church about their Latin America Relief Medical Services (LARMS). After the service, I saw their table near the sanctuary entryway. As I walked past, I was compelled to stop and welcome Stephanie, the CinA missions coordinator. Little did I know the urgency I felt was the Lord stirring my heart, drawing my attention. News of a medical/dental mission was curious and exciting. I prayed, Lord, my heart is so full; what shall I do?

"…How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15b

The service that day was not as memorable as the Holy Spirit stirring my heart. He left the impression of Matthew 28:20 "…and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." I knew I had to go. My husband, Craig, also knew. Before I could ask he said, "Go."

After the stirring came the preparation. CinA teamwork and coaching soon began. I could feel the weight of God's hand ushering us in unity toward a single goal. He implanted hope that many would hear of the name of Jesus in Medellin, Colombia, through us. Although I hold a nursing degree, because of Christ, I hold a more valuable degree, one of hope and healing. This hope and healing we would, together, offer to the precious people of Colombia.

Most people think a missions trip's sole purpose is to benefit the people of the community being served. Although that is essential, those who are called to minister are also blessed with something beautiful and inexpressible from the Holy Spirit of God. The friendships formed on the LARMS trip are a beautiful expression of God's handiwork.

Gifts and talents are useless without God's mighty hand ministering to the needy by these very gifts that are only His to give. So when God calls, if we are ready, we will witness a beautiful display of His splendor through Christ's people, His body. Pray for His people to go, as Jesus commanded, into all the world.

ARE YOU WILLING TO GO? IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Philippines, April 1 -13, 2018

Asian Relief Medical Services (ARMS) will be serving in the Philippines. ARMS has been serving the poor for 23 years. This year the outreach will be on the islands of Palawan and Panay. COST: In-country is $1,150.00 + airfare to Manila. Join others from around the world. There are many areas to volunteer, evangelism, triage, medical and dental, pharmacy, and prayer and healing. No medical or dental experience needed.

(Licensed pharmacists, medical/dental care providers are always needed)

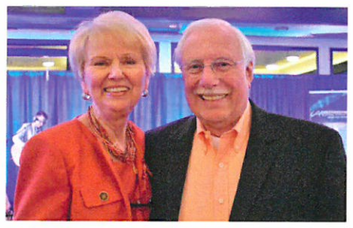
Medellin, Colombia, June 16 – 23, 2018

CinA has partnered with Latin America Medical Services (LARMS) for 4 years. Many people in rural villages receive medical, dental and spiritual care, many for the first time. This year LARMS will be returning to Medellin to continue serving the people there. A day will be devoted to a local prison providing care and ministry outreach. In-country cost $1,100.00 + airfare. There are many areas to volunteer, evangelism, triage, medical, dental pharmacy, and prayer and healing. No experience is necessary.

(Licensed pharmacists, medical/dental providers are always needed)

For more information on any of the above, please contact Stephanie at (559) 370-4103 or at stephanie@cinami.org.

What a beautiful evening. With 200 guests we celebrated 60 years of missions ministry. Our guests enjoyed a tasty meal as we trumpeted the Christians in Action beginnings and past victories which included mobilizing more than 600 missionaries who've triumphantly taken the worlds greatest Good News to the peoples of more than 30 nations. We heard reports from key missionary leaders from three different regions, then were introduced to the new president, David Ingerson, as he shared his Vision *Next150Go*: To reach the NextGeneration and mobilize *150* additional workers to Go into all the world with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our emcee for the evening, Pastor Jim Franklin, did a fabulous job keeping the evening informative and fun. Outgoing president Gordon Donoho was honored for his nine years of service. He will be missed. To our sponsors and volunteers: "Thank You." Without you this evening would not have been a success.



In honor of our 60th Anniversary, we invite you to consider making a generous one-time or monthly gift to help us accomplish our Vision *Next150Go*. Please return the enclosed envelope with your generous gift.
May God richly bless you as you pray and give to help fulfill the Great Commission.