



From the Pastor's Desk...

May 2021

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially those who are of the household of faith.

- Galatians 6:9-10

Dear Cup family and friends,

Since 2013, we have been involved in an ongoing mission work in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. Working in some of the most remote villages in the northern and western reaches of the country, we have been beginning and supporting schools, through the non-profit organization Eduations, and planting churches in these villages through the EPC. It was the offer of schools that allowed us as Christians to come into these entirely Muslim communities. The prayer and hope has been that as providers of quality and consistent education in the name of Jesus Christ, a generation of believers from various tribes that have never had a Christian witness before would be born.

Last week, I had the opportunity to take part in a significant milestone in our efforts. In January, we began our first Senior Secondary School in the village of Rokassa, which received its first class of 132 students from the six villages we serve, including the village we have especially focused on, Fintonia. In the past, if these children hoped to continue their education past the Junior High level, they would have to take their chances in a large city, where extended or distant relations may or may not help them, and where the odds of falling victim to quasi-slave labor, trafficking, or drugs was extremely high. Now, living in dormitories with a house parent, these teens are receiving three meals a day in addition to a quality education. They are also in an environment where they are allowed to learn about the Christian faith freely and worship without facing repercussions for it at home. While we have seen churches sprout up among the Susu and Kuranko people over the past eight years, waves of persecution and social ostracization have made the work challenging in the best of times. While many challenges still remain, this generation of children represent the best possibility for a lasting community of Christian witness that these tribes have ever seen.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, which included the deputy education minister from the national government, was also an introduction of Eduation's work to the country as a whole. Speaker after speaker marveled at the high test scores, the quality of the teachers, the attention to safety and good food, as well as the local hospital that has also been provided by Eduations that is the best in the entire district. Hope has come to one of the most impoverished regions on earth, and it has been done in many ways due to the efforts of churches in our presbytery – not the least of which has been the efforts we have persevered at over the years at Cup church through community dinners, golf outings, and student sponsorships. This perseverance has attracted attention from others, who are also contributing and have brought this work to a much more significant level than we would have dreamed of even a short time ago.

Jesus famously says in his account of the sheep and the goats at the final judgment, 'Truly I say to you, as you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40). What a joy it is to partner with you in kingdom of God work that truly has eternal consequences!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott



Cutting one of the ribbons at the Senior Secondary School opening ceremony. To my left is the Deputy Minister of Education for Sierra Leone, then Samuel Sesay, the President of EduNations (and friend of Cup church!), and our SSS Principal, Rev. Hassan Koroma. The ceremony was front page news for several national papers.



Boys in school assemblies are the same the world over!



Some of our students in Fintonia. The woman in the middle is Sarah Pietryga, the USA development coordinator for EduNations. The other woman is Dana Kaltenberger, Mission Pastor at Grace Community Church in Cranberry.

Please pray for these teachers. They will be providing the Christian discipleship training at the Senior Secondary School. Their efforts will be crucial in developing the long-term health and growth of the church among the Susu, Kuranko, Limba, Mende, and Temne tribes across the rural portions of Sierra Leone and beyond.



We have several dormitories that house up to 16 students with a house parent. The parents provide tutoring help, chaperone, and are an important mentor in the lives of these teenagers who are away from home for the first time in their lives.

MAY IMPORTANT DATES

<u>May 4</u>	5:45p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>May 6</u>	National Day of Prayer
<u>May 18</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>May 21</u>	5:00p Youth GROW Overnighter
<u>May 23</u>	10:00a YOUTH SUNDAY
<u>May 26</u>	7:00p Baccalaureate

Weekly Meetings...

Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library)

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm
Mini's Youth Group ZOOM
(Resumes this Fall)

Wednesday Evening 8:00pm
Young Adult Small Group

Thursday Morning 8:30am
Prayer with the Pastor - FB LIVE

Thursday Morning 9:00am (ZOOM)
Women's Small Group (resume TBA)

Thursday Evening 7:00pm
Bell Choir Practice

Saturday Morning 7:30am
Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 14th-18th

9am—11:30am

K—5th Grade Graduates

**Space is limited, register now
at www.cupepc.org**

NO WALKINS!



CROSSCURRENT YOUTH EARNS EAGLE SCOUT



Adam Kahle was awarded rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony at CUP Church on April 10th. Many hours of work and community service went into earning the award. As part of his service project, Adam spent time in the community working on benches at the township building and police department and a Veteran's Memorial at South Beaver Park. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. Congratulations Adam!!



The Sun will come out tomorrow,

And its sure did!! What an exciting month for our youth in April. Blackhawk High School put on the musical Annie. What an exciting time was had we had 14 Shine Alumni who were casted plus 1 current Shine kiddo. With a crazy week and some re-casting due to unexpected circumstances, we had more youth/Shine kiddos step into more roles. I am so excited for them!! Enjoy the pictures below and please make sure you "Congratulate" them when you see them in worship!

Crosscurrent has been busy this past month with making Love Bags for the local police of Chippewa and South Beaver. Bags of yummy treats to help them through their shifts! We also had the opportunity to just hang out and socialize with some fun games! Upcoming is GROW our move up overnighter. If you haven't done so already PLEASE register ASAP. I must have shirt sizes no later then May 1st.

Mini's Youth Group will still be meeting Tuesday nights 6-7 via zoom. Exodus to Ruth!! you need more info on Mini's please contact Ms. Joel. (current 4-6th grade)

VBS is scheduled for June 14-18th HELPERS NEEDED!!!! if you are interested in helping in ANY capacity please see Ms. Joel! We need as many helpers as we can!! Registration will open soon!

Limited space for attendees. *Please be on the look out for new Clearance information for working with Children and Youth at CUP Church.*

Praying daily for the CUP Church Family, our community!

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

