

# The Story of Jesus for Children of Themne FILM TEAM IN SIERRA LEONE

"I believe many people would put their faith in Jesus Christ if only they could hear about him. We want to make the *JESUS* film increasingly available to unreached people groups and to the local bodies of believers who are trying to reach them. I challenge you to consider being a part of The *JESUS* film ministry. Together, we can make great strides towards the goal of 'reaching every nation, tribe, people and tongue.'"

Jack Robertson,  
National Director  
The *JESUS* Film Project, Canada



**Estimated  
population of  
1,200,000**

**6% literate**

**Bible portions  
available**

## BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone is located on the Atlantic coast of West Africa. It was founded in 1787 by opponents of the slave trade. English settlers bought a piece of land for African natives who were waifs or homeless in London. Later, the land was used as a settlement for Africans rescued from slave ships, and declared a British protectorate in 1896. Freetown, the nation's capital, is so named because it became a haven for freed slaves in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Sierra Leone became independent from Britain in 1961.

From 1991 to 2000, the country suffered greatly under a devastating civil war. The trade in illicit gems, known as "blood diamonds" or "conflict diamonds" funded conflicts and perpetuated the civil war. Today, it is an extremely poor African nation with the lowest average income in the world. Serious economic and social disorders continue to hamper development.

The Themne inhabit approximately one-third of Sierra Leone, on the coast and in the central rain forest. They are mainly agriculturalists. It is estimated that there are 1,200,000 first language speakers, or close to 35% of the total population. Themne is predominantly used in central Sierra Leone and as a second language in parts of neighbouring tribes.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as a result of coastal trade, Islam reached Sierra Leone and its influence is still growing. Among the Themne, about 70% are Muslims. However, Islamic beliefs merely blend in with traditional practices such as sacrificial rites, divination and witchcraft. Secret societies continue to flourish.

Sierra Leone was the first West African country to be evangelized. However, Christianity has grown very slowly in this country. Among the Themne, it has been noted that there is some openness to religious change and receptivity to Christianity. The *JESUS* film will be a powerful entry point for evangelism and discipleship of believers. *The Story of Jesus for Children* will be particularly useful in reaching Themne children who have seen and experienced atrocities of war, greed and hatred. They desperately need the healing message of the gospel and God's love.

Studies reveal that children are more open to the Gospel than any other age group. They need to hear the truth about Jesus. Themne children will easily understand the Gospel message through *The Story of Jesus for Children* in their own language.



In order to accomplish the goal of helping to fulfil the Great Commission, we invite you to consider providing the funding for the *distribution* of the *JESUS* film in the Themne language. Your investment could enable approximately 1,200,000 people to hear and see *JESUS* in their heart language, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

## The Story of Jesus for Children of Themne Film Team

**For a total investment of \$75,178 you can fund the distribution for the Children of Themne in Sierra Leone.**

Your investment includes the following:

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

▪ Distribution for the 1 <sup>st</sup> year (includes motorcycle & equipment set)	\$44,278
▪ Distribution for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year (includes salaries, training & follow-up expenses)	<u>\$30,900</u>
<b>TOTAL FOR 3-YEAR DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$75,178</b>

### **FOLLOW-UP:**

Follow up strategy in partnership with Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH). This is a scripture listening program that has been proven effective in discipleship and church planting particularly among the world's poor and illiterate people groups

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- The option to complete your pledge over a 2 or 3 year period is available.
- You may send your cheque payable to “The *JESUS* Film Project”, P.O. Box 300, Stn. A, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2X3. Please indicate your project name “**Themne CL Film Team in Sierra Leone**”.
- Other giving methods: credit card (please call toll-free 1-800-563-1106).

\* To recruit, train, and equip a film team and then utilize that team to reach an entire language group requires a substantial commitment in time and effort by our foreign partners. We therefore request that when a financial commitment to support a film team is made, that it be of at least three year's duration.

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The *JESUS* Film Project, Canada intends to use all funds designated for this project in this project. However, if this project is no longer viable or if the financial needs of this project (including administrative and logistical costs) have been fully met, your gift made and received for this project may be used by The *JESUS* Film Project in its other charitable activities to reach people for Christ