

Akrofi-Christaller Institute

Responding to the Ebola virus outbreak and giving to help relief in Sierra Leone

Although there have been no identified cases of the Ebola virus in Ghana, the Akrofi-Christaller Institute, as part of its Christian responsibility is seeking to participate in the effort to bring an end to the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa through a number of measures:

1. **Prayer** – for those in the countries affected, for the stopping of the virus and also for Ghana’s own preparedness and willingness to improve its health and sanitation practices.
2. **Education** – through seminars and taking opportunities to teach in churches in Ghana to bring greater awareness about God’s word related to sickness, health and sanitation, about the Ebola virus, how it is spread, how people can prevent themselves from getting the disease, what to do if a person gets unwell and how churches should prepare for it.
3. **Giving** – ACI has opened a channel to transfer gifts to help the efforts to control and combat the disease, particularly in Sierra Leone through Rev Kelvin Koroma, a MTh graduand of ACI (See below for more details about Rev. Koroma and also about how to give through ACI).



Rev Karim Kelvin Koroma

Karim Kelvin Koroma from Sierra Leone completed his MTh in African Christianity in May 2014 at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute. He returned to Sierra Leone in June and was confronted with the reality of the outbreak of the Ebola virus. He lives in the town of Bombali in the Makene District with his wife Zainab and children.

Rev Koroma convinced his fellow pastors of the Wesleyan Church, Sierra Leone in Bombali to participate in the efforts to combat Ebola in the northern Bombali District. Initially they were involved in “sensitizing” and comforting 28 quarantined homes in their township. They sought to observe the hygienic and preventive measures recommended by the Health authorities while interacting with quarantined homes. They have also raised support from their own ministers for the quarantined homes. When they visit the homes they attempt to find out the amount of food supplied to them and they endeavour to supplement this where necessary, especially where there are small children. They try to pray with them and also share the word of God to encourage them. They visit the homes at least three times a week. Rev Koroma and other pastors continue to visit quarantined houses as the numbers of confirmed Ebola cases in Makeni have been growing weekly.

Rev Koroma also was granted an official pass to travel around Sierra Leone doing “Sensitization Workshops” for Pastors in his church, the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. These workshops are facilitated by the Health Education Personnel of the District Health Management Team. They involve sharing medical information on the Ebola virus such as its history, signs and symptoms and current information on the number of infected persons, those dead, those fortunate to be treated or survivors; and preventive and control measures. They also discuss the cultural and traditional practices that hinder the prevention, control and eventual eradication of the Ebola virus outbreak.

The third aspect of the sensitization drive is to listen to pastor’s experiences in their localities and to learn about how they preach about the outbreak and participate in comforting the quarantined related to their psychological and or spiritual situations. Rev Koroma is also compiling the sermons at the end of the rounds of the sensitization drive or workshops.

During a trip to the village of Kamakwie, in northern Sierra Leone, they discovered that a pastor, out of hospitality, unknowingly hosted an infected woman and she died overnight in the home. The post mortem results proved that she died of Ebola. The home of the pastor was quarantined. He could not attend the sensitization workshop because of this act of kindness in a medical emergency.

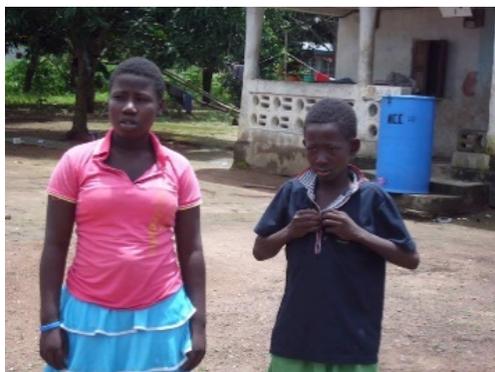


Fig 1. These two children are the only two of this house who survived the Ebola virus which killed their parents, two sisters and grandmother in the second week in August and first week in September 2014. The family were members of the Wesleyan Church in Makama, Makeni.

Fig. 2. Rev Koroma giving words of comfort to members of a quarantined house



Fig 3. Rev Koroma giving words of comfort to members of a quarantined village





Fig 4. A family suspected of having Ebola being transferred to a holding centre.

Source of photos: Re Karim Kelvin Koroma

Giving through ACI:

If you desire to give towards the relief operations through Rev Koroma and his colleagues in the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, gifts can be given through ACI in the following way:

1. A direct cash gift through the Finance Department at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute, Akropong-Akuapem.
2. A Cheque made payable to “Akrofi-Christaller Institute” but designate for “Ebola relief”.
3. Direct deposit: See ACI Account details on pdf.
Please indicate that the gift is for “Ebola relief”.

All gifts will be transferred in full to Sierra Leone.

AKROFI-CHRISTALLER INSTITUTE LOCAL ACCOUNTS DETAILS

1. GCB Account

Account Name: Akrofi-Christaller Institute
Account Number: 209/113/0000/463
Branch: Akropong-Akuapem
Currency: Ghana Cedis

2. Universal Merchant Bank Account

Account Name: Akrofi-Christaller Institute
Account Number: 00001/01/000269/71
Branch: Accra
Currency: Ghana Cedis

AKROFI-CHRISTALLER INSTITUTE FOREIGN ACCOUNTS DETAILS

1. US Dollar Account

THROUGH

SWIFT CODE:CITIUS33
CITIBANK N.A.
111 WALL STREET
NEW YORK
NY 10043, U.S.A.
ABA# 021000089
USD A/C No. 36056153

FOR ONWARD TRANSFER TO

SWIFT CODE: MBGHGHAC
UNIVERSAL MERCHANT BANK, GHANA LIMITED
KWAME NKRUMAH AVENUE
P.O. BOX 401
ACCRA-GHANA

BENEFICIARY: Akrofi-Christaller Institute
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00001/01/000270/10 (US Dollar)

2. EURO Account

Name of Bank	Merchant Bank (Ghana) Ltd.
Address of bank	Merban House, 44 Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, P. O. Box 401, Accra, Ghana
Account No.	00001/01/000272/69
Swift Code:	BYLADEMM
Routing Bank	Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale, 80277, Muenchen, Germany
To:	Merchant Bank Ghana Ltd. Euro Account Number 8118026 for further credit to Akrofi- Christaller Institute Account number 00001 / 01 / 000272 / 69 with Merchant Bank Ghana Ltd.

20 October 2014