

Prayer This Week

Our focus this week is: **Congregational Sharing**

A. *God, we pray this week for those who are sick among us:*

B. *God, we pray this week for those who are struggling among us:*

C. *God, we thank you this week for your wonderful presence among us:*

D. *The Cry of my heart this morning, Lord, is for:*

E. Praying for one another:

Healing & Strength: Bernie Smith, Rachel Dunkerley-Underwood,
Sylvia Gibson, Sylvia Thompson

***For confidential or urgent prayer requests, call Erna (prayer chain) at
403-284-3737***

Nation we are in prayer for this week

Sierra Leone – Africa



Religion		Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	767,390	13.15	3.1
Evangelicals	229,366	3.9	4.2
Muslim	3,676,468	63.00	

Geography

Area: 71,740 sq km

Small coastal state between Guinea and Liberia.

Population 5,835,664 **Annual Growth:** 2.70%

Capital: Freetown

Challenges for Prayer

The fallout from the conflict remains – the human suffering of survivors. Pray for the following groups:

a) Those with emotional and psychological trauma from their experiences. This could include the majority of the population, but especially those who suffered rape. Proper trauma counselling and Christian love can see these wounds healed, but much remains to be done in ministry and especially in training people to minister to these needs.

b) Victims of mutilation and maiming. Sierra Leone's conflict was particularly noted for amputation of hands, arms and feet – for no reason other than pure cruelty and evil. Those who survived such treatment need loving acceptance and integration into normal society as well as vocational training for future employment.

c) Former child soldiers. Over 10,000 fought in the conflict, enduring as well as inflicting much suffering. The stigma associated with this role makes their reintegration very difficult. As they grow into men, they remain troubled and troublesome, knowing no life other than one of crime and violence. Pray for ministries that will reach out to these and provide opportunities for them to live whole and wholesome lives.

The challenge of the unfinished task. The pride and attitude of superiority shown by the Krio "Christian" population, and the continued growth of Islam, have limited church growth in the tribal hinterland. Most outreach is to animists, even though Muslims have shown responsiveness to the good news. Pray for:

a) The Muslim peoples. During the 20th Century, Islam grew from 10% to over 60% of the population. Islam's recent increase in influence is in part thanks to UN peacekeeping forces. Troops from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India erected mosques wherever they were stationed. Other Muslim countries sent missionaries to further Islamize the nation. Islam and Christianity enjoyed peaceful relations until now. Pray that Christian witness to Muslims might be clear and bold, but be done with sensitivity and humility. The Fula Jalon, Krio Fulani, Mandingo, Susu, Temne-Banta, Vai and Yalunka are the least reached, but this is being addressed by a number of agencies working with these groups in neighbouring countries.

b) The more animistic groups are more easily won to Christ, but are rapidly being Islamized as well. Christians must show more urgency in reaching them. The Bom, Kuranko, Loko, Northern Kissi and Sherbro are all 5% Christian or less.