



How Living Water Helped Propel a Church's Effectiveness in Sierra Leone

Gbangbatoke, Sierra Leone

Pastor Joseph G. Lawundeh established the Life of Light Church in 2000 in Gbangbatoke, Sierra Leone, with a vision of raising disciples and spreading the gospel.

However, despite 20 years of ministry, progress was slow. By 2019, church membership remained about 50 people. The congregation struggled to develop new leaders, raise pastors, establish daughter churches, and effectively reach neighboring communities with the gospel.

Pastor Lawundeh shared, “For nearly 20 years, we prayed for growth and more workers for God’s kingdom, but we did not see the level of transformation we desired. We had passion, but we lacked effective tools and approaches for disciple-making and community engagement.

In 2020, Living Water International Sierra Leone entered the Gbangbatoke community and partnered with Life of Light Church via the Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) program. Church leaders received training on integral mission, gospel proclamation, Bible storying, and the church's role in addressing social issues such as sanitation and hygiene.

Through the program, Pastor Lawundeh’s church showed the JESUS film. That night, many community members who had never attended church services before came to watch the film. The event created opportunities for conversations about faith and opened doors for evangelism.

Today, church membership has grown from approximately 50 members in 2019 to more than 250 members. The church has also successfully raised and deployed local pastors to lead daughter churches.

Pastor Lawundeh explained, “The CCM program changed our understanding of ministry. We learned that when we combine the message of Christ with genuine service to people, hearts become open to the gospel.”

He added, “When I look back at where we were and where we are today, I see God’s hand at work. We are no longer a church waiting for growth; we are a church raising disciples, sending leaders, and transforming communities for Christ.”



Pastor Lawundeh in front of his community’s hand pump in Sierra Leone.



Pastor Lawundeh meets with and trains church planters in his community.