

Sierra Leone Mission Trip, May 2017 - Seeking Participants

In October 2013, Susan Haddox took part in a 2-week United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) mission trip to Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa. The group worked with pastors, provided basic public health education in conjunction with local health workers, helped to update a staff housing at Manjama Health Center, and led a VBS for about 200 children. They formed lasting relationships with pastors and young people in Sierra Leone and were able to provide aid during the Ebola crisis. These relationships have enabled us to start planning some projects in partnership with people in Sierra Leone.

Two more trips are planned for 2017. Currently, we have only 5 persons signed up for the May 2017 trip. **We need to sign up at least 3 more volunteers by Dec 31, or we will be forced to cancel the trip. Please spread the word.** There will probably be another trip in September or October 2017, which will include some health care professionals.

What will we do? The May trip is likely to split time between Freetown, the capital city, and Bo, where the Manjama Health Center is located. In the Bo area, the bishop of Sierra Leone and the District Supervisor have requested further pastor training opportunities. We plan to lead another VBS, engage in music ministry, and distribute school supplies. We will also lay groundwork for the healthcare-related trip. In Freetown, we may do neighborhood clean-up or construction projects, led by a Sierra Leonean who now resides in Ohio.



Any adult Christian in good health, willing to follow the UMVIM guidelines, is welcome. The expected cost is a little over \$3000. In addition, a number of vaccinations are required, which may cost a few hundred dollars and some months of preparation. Participants are encouraged to defray their personal costs through fundraising, through their church, local clubs, friends, and crowdfunding (e.g., GoFundMe.com).