

INTRODUCTION

Kilalihun district is in the salient of Sierra Leone bounded by Guinea in the North-East, and Liberia in the South- East with estimated population of 358,190 persons. Kilalihun district is divided into 14 Chiefdoms one of which is Luawa with total population of 65,500 persons.

The religious makeup of Kilalihun is Islam 70%, Animist 5%, Voodoo 10% and Christianity 15%. The accent to religion is male skewed while females tow. Most believe in demons and that they are friendly and can help them in the supernatural realm. They believe their dead can come back to communicate, protect and help them. Personal protection via voodoo is particularly given attention since everyone believes he/she is a target. Secret societal association is paramount to social acceptance. Mediums and witch doctors are opinion leaders in matters of protection and safety. "I am a witch; I bought it thinking I can save myself and my family members by doing so". One lady confessed. To them, God is the cause of both evil and good. However, it is also widely believed that Christian Missions have been of tremendous help of reducing evil and initiating development in the community.

Against this background, coupled with the fact that the Seventh-day Adventist Mission has not been here before for church planting, the evangelist headed to break this silence. Kilalihun town is averaged 117 miles from Bo and Ngiehun in the Luawa, where the evangelistic series cantered, is 110 miles from Bo.

Ngiehun was selected because it is the gate way to Kilalihun and the focal point of developmental thrust. Historically, Ngiehun is the centre sport for the decisive land battle between Kailondo, on behalf of Kilalihun and Ndawa on behalf of Kenema District. The battle Sport is locally known as "Korbangeya" which is also believed to be the witches' theatre/Voodoo conference centre. Precisely at this centre, the gospel of God's eternal love to all humanity was preached for ten days with a resounding victory that mirrors the historical one.



HOW DID THEY GET THERE?

Bro. Mustapha Koroma, who resides in Freetown, provided the bulk of the funds needed for the Bible series. However, South-East Mission Station bore a small part.

After much prayer, preparation and reflection the time was ripe for the trip.

From Bo to Kenema the evangelists cruised the well-paved High-way in a hired vehicle cute to accommodate two men, two loud speakers, one amplifier three cartons of bibles, and one box tracts. Less than two hours we were in the church compound in Kenema for a brief stopover.

From Kenema, arrangement was made to hire a vehicle to convey evangelists to their ten day home- Ngiehun. Three men joined the team, one technician, and two assistants. The driver accepted the terms of the contract and off we went.

After an hour and ten minutes the touched Segbema on the newly constructed trunk road. An hour later, Daru was in sight where their vehicle developed some problems with the back wheel, and immediately, the driver went to work finishing after twenty-five minutes



Pendenbu would be their next major town. Though the new road construction extends there, progress was slow given the difficult terrain and bridges. Just at the mouth of the town their vehicle finally broke down.

However, surely by divine plan, another commercial bus came along on its way to Kailahun. Quickly the driver Arranged for them to join the bus. In no time the transfer was complete; and they headed for Ngiehun-their new home. The town was almost asleep when they arrived. Their waiting host evangelist— James quickly fixed their lodging and cared a lot more. The adventure to Ngiehun may have been fraught with challenges, but God’s marked intervention defined every incident leading up to the maiden arrival of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to the district once renounce for intense rebel activities



MEETING WITH LOCAL LEADERS

After a short briefing with the Sabbath School branch members, the team headed to meet with traditional leaders.

Through one local opinion leader the team was introduced to the town chief, and his counsellors. After hearing the rationale for the visit, the chiefs unanimously welcome the team by declaring their moral support and bid them farewell. On the opening night one of the chiefs, Gabba, attended to assure listeners that the guests were there to teach, inform, and educate. And that they deserve attention and respect.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL THREATS

Culturally, Korbangaiya is not without a tradition. It is the theatre for witches and wizards especially on Thursday nights. Report has it that one Pastor was there to preach on the same site. He placed his bible on the stand, started praying. After prayer, his bible could not be found. “People have been pelted here” one man added.



Another threat was from nature. Before the team arrived, it rained almost each evening. Our God, who has always been Master not a victim of nature, was the anecdote to all threats. Although it rained after evening meetings, one drop could not disrupt. It even boiled down to no rain at all, prompting one cacao farmer to ask prayers for showers on his tender crops. When the work was done, and nothing happened to the speakers, the question was: how could this be? The answer was simple: threats are threats, not actions.





ATTENDANCE

Nightly attendance ranged from 250–300. Beside this, reports coming in from three kilometre radius suggested more people were within hearing shot. Only God knows how these may respond to Him.

THREE PRUNGED APPROACH

In proclaiming the saving message of Jesus Christ for this time, three approaches were employed in Ngiehun: health, education and the gospel. Health messages appropriate for Ngiehun were: malaria, Environmental cleanliness, health benefits of breastfeeding, Diarrhoea, magic of charcoal, dangers of smoking, and the foolishness of alcoholism et cetra. The response to these messages was electrifying: one woman with a lighted cigarette in hand, standing by a community health officer dropped her “coffin nail”. She came to say it. Another Brest- feeding mother came out to express her satisfaction.

There is one secondary school in Ngiehun. Opportunity seized the moment for preachers. Two hours each school day students gather to receive current ideas in Mathematics and English, and others. At the end of speaking, majority of converts were students.

The gospel was the greatest attraction. Hearts softened, and made glad. Its been said somewhere that, fruits ripen in order. First fruits were baptized, but God knows how to handle those who have heard His Word. He ought to be trusted for that.



IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE MESSAGE

The power of the gospel immediately felt: hearts of children turned to parents, decisions made to return to school, cohabitations ceased, and questionable habits such as smoking, alcoholism, given up. The demon possessed freed, indefensible perceptions altered, new views and mind set about God accepted, and finally, a company of fifty-three believers established to serve as the crux from which further missions may be launched to the glory of God.



CONVERT RETENTION PLAN

Sustainability is the Stronghold of discipleship. Therefore it is planned that one efficient frontline, familiar worker be on the ground to continue discipling the young lambs.

In the nearest future system and structure would be in place to establish an **evangelistic centre**, possibly in Bo, where intermittent training sessions could be done. It need be indicated here that suitably qualified person for theological studies is had to come by this days. Hence, the need for locally trained frontiers workers for the interior terrain. It is also projected that agric-vocational centre may sustain agro-based industries such as gari production.

Concluding, much praise to God the creator, who raised His children, with the gift of giving to finish his work. Kailaihun is now added to grounds over which the three angels could fly with glee. Much prayer and work are required to sustain the lambs in this new territory.

