



# SIERRA LEONE

March 2017

**OPERATION  
WORLD**

the definitive prayer guide to every nation



The coastal belt of mangrove swamps, mountains, and wooded hills are painted on the West African nation of Sierra Leone. The tropical and humid nation is located along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and lies between Guinea and Liberia. Founded as a home for free slaves in 1797, the capital, Freetown, still testifies today of the nation's original purpose.

The Republic of Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961 from Great Britain and now functions as a constitutional democracy. Between 1991 and 2001 the nation was plagued by civil war, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and nearly 2 million people being displaced. Those living in the nation are often reminded of the past when they see the many without arms or legs, a trademark of the rebels. In addition, over 10,000 child soldiers were used in this conflict. United Nations peacekeepers left the nation in 2005, and the military assumed responsibility of peace and safety efforts. The nation is recovering, though unemployment is as high as 80%, and only one third of the nation is literate. Yet signs of growth are evident, due in part to a new stable government.

Though Sierra Leone became the first West African nation to be evangelized in 1785, a mere 13% of the population identifies with Christianity today. Sixty percent of the population identifies with Islam and is steadily showing growth, though the government of Sierra Leone allows the freedom of religion. Various occult practices and other ethnic religions are commonly combined with both Islam and Christianity. There are many Christian organizations in the nation aiding in physical, emotional, and psychological healing from the civil war. However, many churches are ill equipped to also tend to the needs of the community as few leaders have training, and many have not even gained any secondary education. Christian radio is vital to reach the many illiterate people in this recovering nation.

[WATCH & PRAY](#)

[GIVE THANKS](#)

**Thank God for the end of 11 years of chaos that claimed thousands of lives, crippled many thousands, and harmed most of the population in some way.**

[PRAY FOR:](#)

- For the longing people have for safety, stability, food, work and honesty from leaders, which has stemmed from being ranked the world's poorest country for the past decade.
- That Christians will live lives of faith, and will depend on Jesus alone for provision, protection and power.
- That Churches be places of compassion, healing and forgiveness for orphans, former child soldiers or slaves, the victims of rape and amputation, mental trauma and for those who committed these deeds.
- The more animistic people groups come to Christ more quickly, but some also turn to Islam. Islam grew from 10% to 60% of the population in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pray that Christian witness to Muslim peoples will be clear and bold, also sensitive and humble. Most Christian outreach goes to animists, even though Muslims also respond to the good news.

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### THE 10/40 WINDOW

Turkey has an estimated 2.6 million refugees spread around the country. One church decided to get involved by volunteering to take responsibility for one day a week at the local refuge center. They provide one hundred boxes of food at the cost of twenty-five dollars per box. They did not know where the money would come from to provide these food boxes, but through God's faithfulness, the church has been able to meet its commitment. Praise God for His ability to provide all that we need.



### JOSHUA PROJECT

### THE UNREACHED

*Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.*

**A total of 72 People Groups are Unreached – 33,248,000** people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.



### OPEN DOORS

**#37**

**on the Open Doors WWL of countries who face the worst Christian persecution.**

- Turkey is gradually enforcing Islamic influence, and discrimination against Christians, and other religious minorities, is increasing. Pray for God to enable those experiencing persecution to place all hope and trust in him.
- Pray for converts from a Muslim background to minister graciously and wisely to their families. They often experience heavy pressure from family, friends, and their community to return to Islam.
- Pray for those who are labelled and treated as traitors after embracing the Christian faith. While conversion is not prohibited by Turkish law,

### PRAY FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

Islam is the largest religion in Sierra Leone, with significant Christian and animist minorities. The constitution of Sierra Leone provides for freedom of religion and the government generally protects this right and does not tolerate its abuse. Therefore, there is no known persecution of Christians in Sierra Leone.



**REDEMPTIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION**

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**NOTES**

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**THE GLOBAL WATCH**

**GLOBAL PRAYER  
RESOURCE NETWORK**

