



“making a real difference” in

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I have recently returned from a 10-day trip to Sierra Leone and want to share all my news with you. It was a very busy, but also a very productive trip.

Christian Hope School

I would like to thank all those who donated towards the replacement of the desk and bench sets after the recent break in at the school. Solomon met a teacher from the school on Saturday 11th to hand over the money for the replacement desks/benches and when we visited a week later all the furniture had been made & they were just waiting for the varnish to dry



Westminster Community School

When we arrived at the school on Sunday morning, the foundation trenches had been dug and concreted and all the concrete blocks had been pre-made. So, with the local builders we laid the foundation blocks and started to build the three walls, with Barry, my builder, making sure the walls were tied in to the exiting gable end wall correctly. The local builders were amazed by his rechargeable drill as none of them had ever seen one before!



As with all previous projects, EVERYTHING is done manually and the local guys worked tirelessly for six days in order to reach roof height.



The temperature was about 30c & the humidity was about 80%, but the guys just pace themselves. All the builders were presented with a “team” shirt, kindly donated by Cumnor Minors FC, Oxford.



The pupils waving goodbye on our last day on site.



We held the official opening of the two new classrooms that have been in use since the start of this term - currently we have 52 children attending.

Banbury International Community Senior Secondary School



This was the first time I had seen the new uniform and I have to say that they all looked VERY smart.



We support a number of secondary school girls with traditional sanitary pads, as post e-bola, when we set the scheme up, there were concerns regarding cross contamination of blood products.

The Yorkits project of Rotary York Ainsty has been making washable, reusable feminine hygiene period kits for girls for ten years to lessen the period poverty burden. They donated a number of kits to me and I took a small batch for the girls to trial. If all goes well, I will be shipping a larger batch soon.

Port Loko School

On our last day we visited the 4-classroom school, built in 2022, and I was really pleased to see that the building was still in very good condition and being well looked after. The school had just received a large donation of educational supplies from the ministry of education which provided valuable resources to this small community school.

Momoh

As always, it was great to catch up with my great friend Momoh and despite his severe disability he always has a smile on his face & is a joy to be with.



The Global Mercy

Whilst in Freetown we had a conducted tour around the world's largest civilian hospital ship, the first ever purpose-built floating hospital operated by the charity Mercy Ships. It is state of the art with 6 operating theatres, 200 patient beds, radiology, laboratory, CT-scanner, pharmacy. It can have up to 640 volunteers on board at any one time. It has 12 decks and facilities include a 680-seater auditorium, full restaurant facilities, a school for up to 125 students, a café & shop, laundry rooms, internet cafes, a gym, open air pool & playground area. It was so impressive and makes a huge difference to patients who need specialist care which is often not available "in country". I had been on the Africa Mercy in 2007 but the new ship is much larger. It was volunteering, as a member of Rotary, for Mercy Ships in 2005, that first led me to Sierra Leone.

During the trip we visited six schools and I've come back with quite a "to do" list. Completion of the current classroom at Westminster School and the building a fourth classroom, refurbishment of a part finished classroom at Christian Hope School, some maintenance issues and the list goes on, but I will continue to support the communities whilst I can

I'm now in the 21st century!

I am now able to take donations via QR codes. Visit www.alansafrika.co.uk click on DONATE and then click on QR codes.