

## NT-NL Helps the School Children Romankneh, Sierra Leone

“Perpetual thanksgiving” is what Bishop Tom Barnett of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone (ELCSL) called it when, last November, over 800 children in the church schools of the ELCSL were touched by NT-NL generosity. The children were sporting new school uniforms and school supplies because of donations from the people of the NT-NL Synod. “Our relationship (is) one of perpetual happy thanksgiving for each day of our journey together,” he wrote to Bishop Kevin Kanouse.

It all began when Bishop Kanouse led a group of NT-NL members on a visit to Sierra Leone in February 2007. The group met the children of St. Peter’s Primary School in Romankneh and saw their needs. The \$4,000 that was raised after the group’s return provided uniforms and materials, not only for St. Peter’s, but for all five schools operated by the ELCSL. Bishop Barnett wrote, “It is like our Lord’s feeding of the thousands with four loaves and two fishes.”

The NT-NL Synod and the ELCSL have been in a “companion church” relationship since 1988. In fact, the NT-NL Synod was instrumental in the formation of the ELCSL and has provided material and monetary support in the building of churches, the training of pastors and lay evangelists, the construction of the Jubilee Lutheran Centre in Freetown, and the development of many programs for women, children, and those devastated by the recent war in that country. We have been enriched by the relationship as well, enjoying several visits in the west African country and hosting young adults of the ELCSL here in our synod. This coming March fourteen young adults from the NT-NL Synod will travel with Bishop Kanouse to Sierra Leone as synod members continue to learn from and support our companion in ministry.

We give thanks for the ministry we share with the ELCSL. For more information go to [www.ntnl.org/companionsynod.htm](http://www.ntnl.org/companionsynod.htm).



