



**Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Mission Area**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** *God's work. Our hands.*  
Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus

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**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RELIEF RESPONSE  
FOR WEST AFRICA EBOLA CRISIS**

The Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area (Synod) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is partnering with the IDEA Foundation to send a forty foot container of medical supplies to Sierra Leone, the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak, within the next two weeks.

IDEA is contracting with Medisend to ship a container of medical supplies including gloves, gowns, shoe covers, masks, syringes, tubing, and any additional medical equipment that is currently available for \$ 40,000 per container. They are preparing to send more than one container if funds are available. The IDEA Foundation is also looking into ways of sending medicines, as well. By way of this announcement we are asking for an emergency gathering of offerings in our churches and communities to help send this and additional containers. 100 % of gifts given will be dedicated toward this container.

As of July 30, the confirmed number of cases of Ebola in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia stands at 1,093, including 660 deaths; but there is the strong likelihood of additional unreported cases and deaths. President Ernest Bai Koroma declared a state of public emergency on Wednesday evening July 30, imposing quarantines, curfews, and a national response plan to fight the disease. He has restricted travel out of Sierra Leone for ministers of state and other government officials and has directed police and military to support relief workers and to search homes to find others who are ill from the disease.

“The disease is beyond the scope of any one country, or community to defeat. Its social, economic, psychological and security implications require scaling up measures at international, national, interagency, and community levels,” said President Koroma. He declared Monday, August 4, as a National Stay at Home Day for Family Reflection, Education, and Prayers on the Ebola outbreak.

Dr. Sheik Humarr Khan, who was fighting the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, has died from complications of the disease just this past week. There are very few doctors in the country of Sierra Leone. Another American doctor from Fort Worth has fallen ill with the disease in Liberia.



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Bishop Thomas J. Barnett of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone will take the lead in receiving the Medisend Container and will do the disbursements in collaboration with the Interfaith Council and other creditable governmental organizations.

“The need for personal protective equipment and sanitizers is essential to protect people from the disease,” he said.

Bishop Kevin S. Kanouse of the NT-NL Mission Area is asking all congregations for a special collection of offerings for this need over the next several weeks. Donations by check may be sent to the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area, P. O. Box 560587, Dallas, TX 75356; credit card and Paypal donations may be made directly at [ntnl.org](http://ntnl.org).

If you have further questions, the Mission Office phone number is 214-637-6865 or contact [BpKevinKanouse@ntnl.org](mailto:BpKevinKanouse@ntnl.org).

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IDEA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which supports education and health projects in Sierra Leone. The following IDEA projects create a two-pronged approach promoting social stability and economic opportunity

- **Clean water** wells prevent the spread of water-borne disease and allow children to attend school rather than spend their days hauling water for their families.
- **Skilled medical staff** provide professional, appropriate medical care.
- **Medical equipment and supplies** help institutions provide better and more consistent patient care.
- **Obstetric fistula repair surgery** saves the lives of women who have suffered birth injuries and allows them to rejoin their communities.
- **Vocational education** trains women in marketable trades and the skills necessary to successfully run small businesses.
- **Books** for primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions raise the literacy rate and enable scholars to make the most of their education
- **Sustainable agriculture training** helps farmers efficiently provide food security for their families and can generate income that is often used to send children to school.

The IDEA Foundation brings together the needs of Sierra Leonians and the organizations that can help meet those needs to build a stronger, healthier, more prosperous future. According to Elizabeth Seaborn, the founder, they have partnered with the ELCA and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area in providing financial support for a clinic in Freetown, medical equipment and supplies, medicine, and literacy and vocational training to people in Sierra Leone, regardless of their religion.



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