



GLOBAL IMPACT

**Sharing God's Freedom
 in the Midst of Bondage**

By Milton Godwin, Field Director in Sierra Leone



For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
 (Ephesians 6:12, NIV)

Sierra Leone has faced secret societies for many years that are demonic, powerful, and dangerous. Many people have perished at the hands of secret society members. Those who have the power to

enforce the law typically do not as they are either too afraid to do so or they themselves are bound by their own society's oath to look the other way.

Rev. James Cole is the lead pastor at the Open Bible church in Makomba, Sierra Leone. During a recent Sunday morning service, a group of society members rushed in and attacked Rev. Cole. They insisted that he leave at once and remove his belongings from the house he was renting. They said that the home he is occupying belongs to one of their members, and if he did not vacate the property, he would be beaten and then initiated [forced to take an oath] into the secret society. If a member breaks their oath to a society the punishment is death.

When the members of the society left, the congregants pleaded with Rev. Cole to finish the service and then vacate the house. He immediately called me following the service and together we were able to speak to the leader of the society. We requested permission to pick up Rev. Cole's belongings and then vacate the home by the end of the week. We were grateful the leader agreed.

This was our first time dealing with a secret society. I told Rev. Cole to leave immediately and join Mary, my wife, and I at our home. We then made a formal report with the police and

requested security for when we went to Rev. Cole's rental home. (continued on back)



Members of a society being led by a so-called black devil before a ritual.



Mission India

Mission India is this year's offering focus. Global Missions desires to help equip the next generation of pastors and leaders to impact the country of India and beyond. More information will be sent to your local Open Bible church soon.

(Continued from front)

With a police escort, we met with the village headman [community leader] and homeowner. When Rev. Cole rented the house he did not know that the owner belonged to a society. It was agreed upon that Rev. Cole would not need to move out yet as his rent has been paid through August of 2020. Thanks be to God that He gave us favor!

The police asked Rev. Cole not to return to the property until they completed their investigation. They also told us that every seven years this society inducts new members, and because of their growing numbers they needed this house for their meetings. This is what prompted the attack.

We thank God for the police and village headman who have given us their support. Sunday morning services are peaceful once again. Please continue to pray for Rev. Cole's safety, protection, and for continued favor. Pray also that God will provide a way for us to build a small house for Rev. Cole on the church property before his lease is up.

We have the opportunity to proclaim the freedom of Jesus Christ in this village and help many turn away from the bondage of these secret societies. Please pray for a spiritual healing of this land and for God to reveal Himself to those in need of His saving grace.



A shrine to the bongman devil. This society's priest tries to communicate with the devil through the mirror to obtain it's healing powers.

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

- August**
 1 Mike Rasavanh
 5 Pam Lumbard
 7 Linda Wilson
 8 Mike Lumbard
 16 Okon Obot
 20 Mike Juntunen
- September**
 16 Jessica Welch
- October**
 1 Rich Kopp
 3 Sarin Mak
 15 Joy Brown