

Global Mission Sunday

Spotlight on the Ebola Epidemic

The West African Ebola outbreak that started in December 2013 is the largest and deadliest recorded in history. It has been classified as the world's first Ebola epidemic. As of mid-October, the number of known deaths is 4,555, with all but 9 of them from the three hardest hit countries—Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Unfortunately, there are no licensed treatments available, and severely ill patients can only be cared for with intensive supportive care.

Matthew Brima, Cape Town 2010 participant, said about Sierra Leone, 'Every aspect of the country has been affected. I saw projects abandoned, companies closed, market centers empty, and villages almost wiped out. I listened to pastors who have lost colleagues and members. I visited villages where entire families have died. We don't know when schools will reopen, 22 bodies were put out in the streets. If this is the situation in Sierra Leone, imagine what is happening in Liberia, the worst affected country.'

Prayer requests

1. **West Africa**—Pray for the three countries hardest hit with the virus: Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.
2. **Affected communities**—Pray for quarantined families and affected breast-feeding children. Pray for orphaned children and widows. Pray for those who now have the responsibility of mourning or caring for dead or ailing family members
3. **Authentic care and support**—Pray for personal, organizational, national, and international support in aid to the affected. Pray for the global church to compassionately show the love of Christ through generous giving in cash and kind. Pray also for Christians to pray and fast, interceding on behalf of those suffering and asking God to stop the spread of the virus.
4. **Evangelical leaders and ministries**—Pray for leaders like Matthew Brima (IFES, Sierra Leone), Moses Cooper (IFES, Liberia), and Kpandei Tucker (Scripture Union, Sierra Leone) as they lead in bringing care and comfort to the affected and bereaved. Pray for churches and ministries as they process and respond to the outbreak.
5. **Health workers and experts**—Pray for health departments, practitioners, and NGOs. Pray for wisdom for medical experts, researchers, and policy makers in implementing the right interventions to prevent further regional and international spread of the virus.
6. **Eternal salvation**—Pray that many would turn to and believe in God for eternal salvation as they wrestle with the realities of human frailty and mortality, not just in places affected by Ebola, but all around the world.