

Dear Hugh and all at St. Brigids,

The time passes so quickly, already one year since our last report.

“When I am hungry you give me food to eat, and when I get sick you send me to health Centers” We are never tired of repeating these words of Jesus any time we write to you. Gratitude, yes for all the big things that stand tall, thick with abundance, joy and fruitfulness. We cannot help but applaud their presence.

The old men and women of the Feeding Programme for the poor join us with the St. Joseph of Cluny sisters, particularly the Community in Brookfields, Freetown to thank our Donors and in a special way yourselves for your generous contribution towards the Feeding Programme for the poor.

Due to your help, we the Cluny sisters in Brookfields continue to put a smile on the faces of 22 old poor members, men and women plus three new ones added to the list because of their pathetic stories and their children that are benefitting from the feeding programme for the poor.

Salatu Sesay one of the new poor beneficiaries of the Feeding Programme lost her daughter who used to help her. Salatu goes around picking up empty bottles that are thrown away. She sells a dozen for Le1, 000 (approx one tenth €) It is from that money she buys food the day she is able to sell. Otherwise she sleeps without.

In August we were very sad when we heard that our cook Ayo Barnes had died. RIP. Ayo has been with us since 2002 and she will be a great loss. She was a good cook, hard worker and honest in all her dealings with us and the Poor.

She was only ill for a short time, the sisters had visited the night before she died and she was in fact out so it was really a shock we did not expect her death at this time.

When the Poor returned after the August break they were very upset to hear that Ayo had died and they were full of sympathy. After expressing their sympathy their next concern was “who will cook for us”. Thank God by September we found a new lady, with the unusual name of Watta and she is looking very promising and is already popular with the old people. Thank God, as it is not easy to get reliable people.

In August we close the programme because of the heavy rain but we make sure each person takes home a few cups of rice, tin tomatoes, magi, onions plus money for the month. Also at the Christmas break we prepare for them a small parcel to take home after the Christmas party.

We are grateful to God that throughout the year none of them became seriously sick, those who were sick were sent to St. Anthony Clinic to be treated. We also assist from time to time Mr. Philemon, who is visually impaired and comes for help but is unable to come daily because of the distance.

We wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Together with the poor we thank you again. May our generous God continue to richly bless you and your family for your generous contributions and for putting a smile on the faces of the Poor at the Feeding Programme.

Yours sincerely