

## **REPORT ON RICE DISTRIBUTION - AUGUST 08**

**Submitted by Saidu Kanu, Director of World Hope Sierra Leone**

In August, 2008, World Hope Sierra Leone, in partnership with the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, distributed sixteen tons of rice to three hundred and ten pastors and Church workers of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. Among the beneficiaries were pastors, student pastors, retired pastors, widows and Church workers both at District and National Church levels. Additional rice was also provided to meet the food needs of a four day training seminar that was organized for about 350 pastors and

teachers of the Wesleyan Church. This assistance to the Pastors was made possible by the generous donations from Dale and Larna Partin, Wesleyan Churches in Canada through World Hope Canada, Heritage Wesleyan Church and United Wesleyan Church.



**Pastor's Son in the Midst of Rice**



**Pastor James proudly carrying his bag of rice.**

The rice was distributed in August which is the peak of the rainy season. The rainy season is nicknamed the “The hungry season” in Sierra Leone. It is the month when people are busy planting and have very little to eat during the rains. The situation was made worse this year because of the dramatic increase in the price of food. The price of the staple food, rice, tripled. With pastors and Church workers receiving very low salaries (some receiving as little as \$15 a month) many were unable to buy rice to feed their families. It was at that critical time that each received a 50 kg bag of rice which can feed an average family of six for a month. The impact of the rice on the lives of the pastors was great. Besides putting food on the table, the rice also promoted love and peace in the homes of the beneficiaries.

I was privileged to meet with some of the pastors during the Pastors and Teachers training seminar, a week after the distribution. Below is some of the feedback I got from the pastors:

1 Pastor Amara Forna of Masongbo Loko “The rice brought back love between me and my wife. There had been tension in the home because of the lack of food. My home became peaceful again. Where there is food, there is peace”

2. Pastor Momodu of Kadanso: “ the money I had saved to buy rice was now used to pay school fees for my children”

3. Pastor John T. Sesay of Gbeogoro: “ I thank God that I didn’t have to loan rice to feed my family. The rice I received will carry us through the difficult months.

4 .Pastor Mano Davies Bangura. “ The rice brought happiness to my home”

5 . Pastor Alusine Bangura of Makaililiteh: “ I thank our brothers and sisters for assisting us with food during this hungry season. May the Lord provide for them as they have provided for us”. .

