

SSAAP Quarterly Newsletter, Fall Edition XXXII;
Sierra Leone to Zambia, 2023



To Amara. Discomfort becomes cathartic joy when I am with you. Suffering becomes something we laugh about later while you are by my side. Our daily dramas are nothing more than a fantastic film; hardship is blood that heals our Souls and nourishes our bodies with the sweat of its hard-won Truth. You are the Light of my life. Thank you for sticking by my side, and SSAAP's side, through its transformation here in your nation: Sierra Leone. Because of you, I Love an entire country; and because of you, I will never abandon it. Thank you for being the best part of my life. Love is the most powerful force on this planet.

SSAAP-Sierra Leone Water Wells, 2023

I am pleased to announce that 46 of our 67 SSAAP-Sierra Leone water wells for 2023 will complete in 2023; the other 21 water wells will be finished by the time Radiance and I return to Sierra Leone in November 2024. I will visit all 67 water wells, plus the 11 unfinished water wells from 2019/2020 when I return to Sierra Leone in 2024/2025, and at that time furnish my own photographs.

Unfortunately, our SSAAP House/Office did not complete before our time in Sierra Leone ran out in 2023, and the plethora of factors and corruption that went into this are being investigated, analyzed, and dealt with currently (please see the section of this Quarterly Newsletter on SSAAP Housing-Sierra Leone). I am very upset about the SSAAP Headquarters, but I also have faith in the process – though it is not my own – and the justice system here; I have faith that the house will complete, though I am quite upset about the corruption that went into its lack of completion in 2023. Please read more in the following sections regarding SSAAP-Sierra Leone Housing.

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The Weight of Water

I am also pleased to announce the success of our June 23, 2023 forum called “The Weight of Water”, hosted by Jeff Gross of Project Hartwork, Denver, Colorado. The two hour presentation explored various topics such as the natural and fundamental purposes and principles of water on the planet, as well as the implication of water as a greater source of planetary and cosmic inspiration.

Between 60% to 70% of the human body is comprised of water; approximately 70% of planet Earth is comprised of water. Are these two statistics coincidental? I would say: “No”. We are the Earth, and She is us. We are part of Her. Connection to water on the Earth is not a luxury, but rather: a form of survival. We lose our connection to Nature, we lose our connection to self. The deeper we connect to the water on the planet (rivers, lakes, oceans, streams, rain, snow, clouds), the higher our consciousness is raised. The water on the Earth is our lifeblood; without it, we cannot survive.

During the presentation, I was discussing that the more I work with water wells in Africa, the more I have learned to appreciate water, and the people of rural Africa: they do not waste water. Water is gold, here in Africa. And the people here know what it is like to live without it, as it gives them permanent and sustainable suffering if water is not a part of their daily lives. The deeper I work with water wells in Africa, the more I feel connected to all water on the planet: rivers, rain, mountain stream, Aegean Sea, Red Sea, Indian Ocean. The more fluid I feel, and the deeper I go: water always searches for depth. I tell people here: “I should be transparent as water. I should be water; you should even feel free to drink me.” And they always laugh; but I am being serious. We should all be as water: clean, clear, sparkling, transparent, healthy, and life-giving. That is water’s role.

On a greater, cosmic scale: most of the planets in our solar system are without water, and so the energy from the water itself on planet Earth creates a certain abundance we have here, that we may

even take for granted and not appreciate on a day-to-day basis. Water is heavy, as is its value in our lives.

If you are interested, part of the presentation is available online through the following link; the first half of the presentation was unfortunately cut off, so we will redo this presentation and send a link in the next SSAAP Quarterly Newsletter:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_TuGgKVTpdVx2J9flgVZL288y9TNBsF/preview

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Joy

There is a house beside the house where we are staying, and it is in the process of being built; the way the roof has been built, whether faulty or not, there is a slant in the roof that allows huge currents of rain to cascade down the side of the building. Radiance and I have been putting our buckets beneath it, and drinking rain water since May. It has been nothing short of Divine, and we have not been physically healthier here than during this time that we have been drinking rain water. As there is little to no pollution in our small town of Port Loko, Sierra Leone, the rain water is potentially cleaner than well water from the Earth.

Last night, it was pouring rain, and so pitch black; I took my African wrap “*lapa*” outside with a bar of soap and showered beneath the water running off the rooftop. I cannot remember a time in my life that I felt so... *purified*. As the rain flowed from the rooftop, and onto the crown of my head – cool as ice and massaging my scalp – I remembered how lucky I am to be alive (sometimes I forget), and to have this experience here on planet Earth. I realized the importance of things not going my way, and sometimes things going very astray from the way I would have liked or planned them, and the deep lesson[s] available to us as human beings through discomfort.

The last few months in Sierra Leone have been a transformative experience for both my daughter Radiance and I; running a project of this scale, I would never want to come here and not do what I had set out to do (dig 67 water wells in 2023), but I have had to re-evaluate, and learn from my mistakes: they have been many. I have realized, deeper than ever before in my life, the plight of the African people – being both one of them, as well entirely separate from them: *You are powerful and wealthy beyond your comprehension; you just don't know it. You think yourselves poor, but you are not. You undervalue yourselves, and your environment, and therefore create your own poverty.*

Wealth is not measured with one system around the world; to measure wealth only under a monetary system sells every ONE short. Wealth is health: healthy food, and clean water. Wealth is having children, many children, or even just one or two. Wealth is having access to clean, unpolluted air, green trees, heavy rainfall, and the food that is grown beneath all these conditions. Wealth is sleeping for 8-10 hours a night without sleep aids, restful sleep, falling asleep with the moon and waking up with the sun. Wealth is having time each day to soak up the meditative and even transcendental

experience of brushing one's teeth, of preparing a meal, of sitting with a neighbor or spending time with your child[ren] without guilt, gadgets beeping, or interruptions. This is daily life in Africa; it is abundant, it is wealthy.

Zambia: August 3, 2023 – Late September, 2024

Radiance and I are going to arrive and settle into being back in Zambia during the month of August 2023, and then will work on re-organizing our Microloan Program in Simwatachela, Zambia, as well as our Water Reticulation System (i.e. simple irrigation system) Project, Water Well-Drilling Project, and our Tree Seedling Project in Cooma Chiefdom, Zambia.

We are so excited for the Tree Seedling Project, which will begin in August 2023, and will encompass local people planting 10 local trees for a free meal once every one or two weeks. The free meal each week is sponsored by one of our faithful donors in Colorado, U.S.A., and we are elated for this opportunity. Trees bring rain, and we are hoping for a less-dry Southern Province, Zambia in the future!



Asia Sabbatical

I am taking Radiance to India from mid-January 2024 to early-May 2024, so that we can work with the University where we studied previously in 2017/2018 in Ahmadabad, India: Gandhi's University (*Gujarat Vidyapith*) built in 1919 for alternative education, free thought, and Nonviolence. SSAAP has an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Gujarat Vidyapith in partnership, and in SSAAP's Nonviolence Library Project here in Sierra Leone; Gujarat Vidyapith typically donates books toward our library. Additionally, we are working with Gujarat Vidyapith to assist in the International Students Course (which we attended in 2017/2018) during the month of January 2024.

In February 2024, we will go to Gandhigram, which is another ashram/institute implementing both the philosophies and teachings of Gandhi; in March 2024, I will take Radiance to Nepal: to Jhong (“Dzong”) Village in Lower Mustang, Nepal in 2007, and to both institutes where I taught in Nepal in 2024: Khowpa College in Bhaktapur, Nepal and Everest Engineering College in Patan, Nepal. In April 2024, we are going to visit Calcutta and Mother Teresa’s Home for the Dying Destitutes in Nirmal Hriday, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, as well swim in the Bay of Bengal (which is the mouth of the Ganges River). We will spend the remainder of April 2024, as well as the first week of May 2024, at an ashram called Muni Seva Ashram, which is a complex of hospitals, schools and social institutions located in Vadodara District of Gujarat, India.

We are looking forward, upon our arrival back to Zambia in May 2024, to host a long line of visitors: friends, SSAAP supporters, and even school groups. Welcome! Thank you for coming in advance!

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SSAAP- Sierra Leone House-building Project



Above, water from our water well at the site. I am told that if water is found in April of every year, before the rains are expected to come after Sierra Leone Independence Day on 27 April, then there will be year-round water in that well. The water well was dug just before Independence Day 2023, so rest-assured there will be year-round water in it!



“No, you carry your wound. With the ego your whole being is a wound. And you carry it around... You cannot touch a man of Tao. Why? – because there is no one to be touched. There is no wound. He is healthy, healed, whole. The word ‘whole’ is beautiful. The word ‘heal’ comes from the whole, and the word ‘holy’ also comes from the whole. He is whole, healed, holy. Be aware of your wound. Don’t help it to grow, let it be healed; and it will be healed only when you move to the roots. The less the head, the more the wound will heal; with no head there is no wound.”

~ Osho, “Healing”, from Zen Tarot: The Transcendental Game of Zen



Southeast Field Coordinator/Site Engineer above and on the previous page: *the angel wearing white.*

This is another fascinating, touching story. This man and I have been through so much. In 2017, I reported him and his wife for child abuse. Radiance and I were living in a room of their house, and Radiance suffered trauma from her friends (his children) being beaten by his wife on a daily basis. When he discovered that I had reported him, he threatened to burn all of my belongings and told me he never wanted to see me again. In 2019, I met him at Madame Yoko’s grave in Moyamba over the issue of water well #5 from 2014/2017 that was never completed. We began talking again. In 2019, he asked to work with SSAAP again. In November 2022, he finished well #5 from 2014/2017 on behalf of the late contractor who had stolen its funds. In 2023, I have given him contracts for 60 of our 67 SSAAP-Sierra Leone 2023 water wells. He wants this project to go on, and understands that without a safe and sustainable (permanent) structure for SSAAP-Sierra Leone, this will not be possible.

Radiance said to me: “Mom, if all people could forgive each other as you and Musa have done, think of how different the world would be, and how different humanity would be. Both people have to forgive each other for the relationship to keep going, and usually that doesn’t happen because

typically one person forgives and the other holds a grudge. Do you know how I know I have forgiven him for allowing his wife to beat their children when we stayed with them? Because I think he is beautiful again.”

Here is my hard-won Truth: *Sometimes, when people make a mistake and you Love them, you have to give them the opportunity to change. Life is all about mess, and dishonesty, and people falling below expectation. This is, in fact, normal. When someone disappoints you, you have to decide if your conduct of standard is more important than the person who disappointed you. And if you decide that your standard is more important, you can draw that line – but it’s a boundary, and it will cost you. Boundaries typically cost those who create them.*



This is a lesson I have learned in the field, in rural Africa. Working in situations that are apparently hopeless, or where the tendency to throw in the towel and just give up are ever-present, what I have learned: *Love people enough not to allow them to be victimized.* We are all victims of some kind of tragedy or abuse: death of a spouse, death of a child, Vietnam War, World War II, dysfunctional family, sexual abuse, rape. As my mother always says: *“This is planet Earth! No one gets out of here painlessly!”*

When we Love people enough not to allow them to be victimized, we treat abuse differently. Abuse should not be an excuse – for ourselves, or for others – and if we allow it to be, then those who are abused (including ourselves) can never break free from the cycle of abuse.

There are a million and one reasons why Sierra Leone is the third-poorest country in the world: 600 years of a dehumanizing slave trade, 400 years of colonialization, Ebola outbreak of 2014-2015, corrupt international interest in diamonds/gold found everywhere in the soil here (but specifically in the Kabala region in the North), corrupt international interest in bauxite which is currently mined here and used in all our devices – including the very screen I type this to you on now and the screen upon which you are reading this, present-day ownership of this nation by foreign powers (other countries that do not have an investment in aiding the country, but rather in pillaging it of its resources), which includes both China and Lebanon; previous raping of this nation for gemstones, diamonds, and precious stones include international players such as Libya, England, U.S.A.: anywhere in the world that purchased diamonds from Sierra Leone whereby people were being killed, enslaved, dehumanized, beheaded, disembodied (their hands, arms, or feet slashed off of their body

with a machete), all in the name of securing a diamond for their beLoved. Despite all this, the slave trade which existed here for 600 years, beginning with the Portuguese and finally with the British as well the Americans (U.S.A.), is for me perhaps even more brutal than the Diamond War, as this was the ultimate dehumanization of these precious people.

For so long, I excused the local people. As they have been through so much suffering, I allowed these historical abuses to be excuses for laziness, poor attitude, stealing, corruption, criminalities, dishonesty, lying/cheating/stealing at every possible opportunity. Building this house, along with a plethora of other factors, has opened a window through my pineal gland: *Love these people enough not to allow them to be victimized – don't give them any more excuses! If you Love them enough (which you do), then in order to break the cycle of abuse, don't use the abuse they have endured as the excuse for their bad behavior. Love them enough to want them to change, and Love them enough so that they can begin to Love themselves enough (not that anyone can change someone's internal composition), but if they Love themselves enough then they will want better for themselves than a life of tragedy and poverty. Show them Love by being Love. You cannot change others; the only way that people change is through Divine Love.*

It took me so long to realize that excusing bad behavior on the past: “*They have been abused!*” or “*They lived through one of the worst wars ever documented in human history!*” or “*No wonder they steal! I would do the same [perhaps] if I was in their shoes!*” was not serving them, not in any way. To truly move ahead, and to move on, and to move past the psychological, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual slavery of the past, I believe, is to Love them enough to want better for them than the conditions they are living in; as anonymously the local people have expressed to me that they want their lives to change, then it seems the only feasible solution is to work together for this change. I can think of no other way than this.



Empathy is one thing: feeling compassion for another. But when empathy becomes a disempowering excuse for those who have been abused in an effort for those who have been abused not to take healing into their own hands, then the cycle of abuse doesn't end: it continues. When we enable others who are victims of abuse who then in-turn abuse others, we are – even if passively – engaging in a cycle of abuse ourselves.



Laying the first block on the foundation of our house is a tradition here in Sierra Leone.



This is a very important tradition in their culture: the owner(s) of the home lays its first foundation block.





13 April 2023: Traditional ceremony of laying the first two foundation blocks on the land and libation: pouring holy water on the site to bless the ancestors, Mother Nature, and Father Cosmos.





In a culture whereby honesty and sacred Truth is not a part of their system, how do you survive?
How do you thrive?

“Acculturating:” – becoming part of another culture. Is it possible to do so, without leaving pieces of ourselves behind in the process? How can you stay true to yourself while still acculturating?

I was complimented by a local doctor here in Sierra Leone, and here was what he said about me:
“...you are a rare field worker, down to the end... you know the hassles and Truth of Africa. You aren’t trying to manage Africa behind a desk or the screen of a computer monitor from the comforts of your own country, but rather: you are here, suffering in the field, suffering beside us, here. Thank you for your intelligence, your input, your integrity, and your initiation into our world. Think of the masses that have already, and will soon in the future benefit, from something as simple as a water well. So simple – and yet so complex! Water is so simple, but dealing with the politics and disturbances – as you have had to do here – is what makes your work, and you, so unique.”



Above, red clay bricks made at the site. When the rains came, they decided to take them under a shelter in town to protect them from the rain.



Bricks being made beneath large shelter in town at the Brick-maker's campus (he teaches a Technical-Vocational course).



Radiance made a color-coded “color swatch” sheet for the shop where we purchased the paint for our walls (left), the color for the iron sheets for our roof (center), and the color for what the gate for our fence around the perimeter of our land should be. Radiance chose the colors for our walls (!), and since the Sierra Leoneans don't know the difference between pink, peach, purple, lavender, light purple, and mauve, Radiance wanted to set the record straight – not only for the wall colors, but also the roof and gate. 😊



We are putting a cement fence around the whole land (1 acre) and installing a metal gate for our safety and protection, also the welfare of any visitors SSAAP receives. Here is the area where the gate will be placed.



Two years ago, in Zambia, I met a British doctor at one of the fanciest hotels in Zambia: the Royal Livingstone. We had High Tea together, and after learning more about my project, she said: “*Your life has been incredible: incredibly difficult, incredibly rewarding. You are a pioneer: going to Africa, doing it your way which is a way that embodies, empowers, and promotes the dignity of the local people. Most foreigners are not capable of this. You are a pioneer in this field. Your life will give you great challenges – but immense payoffs.*”

I never even thought about Dr. Jane’s words until we built this house in Sierra Leone; then and only then did I know what she was talking about: I have paved this road so that Radiance has a home in Africa. She will not have to suffer here as I have: homelessness in Africa, or as I have in the States:

homelessness in U.S.A. She will have a home in both of her African countries, and she will have citizenship in both of her African countries. I am already working on her Zambian citizenship as well. We will have put in the sweat of our own suffering now so that the payoff later will be a house in her homeland, Sierra Leone, that she can stay in for 800 years; Africans invest in the future in terms of their offspring: her great-grandchildren. She is already saying that this will be the house that her children and great-grandchildren can live in as well.

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Questions Asked by an Interested SSAAP Donor in May 2023

Heather: I am going to answer all your questions below, in **BOLD MAGENTA** ;) I am so thankful for your questions - they are such good ones!

Donor: did the money for those dozen or so wells get stolen, or is it retrievable somehow?

Heather: So, as you know, each of our SSAAP-Sierra Leone hand-dug water wells is \$1000 USD. We had paid for 14 water wells in 2019/2020, so we spent \$14,000. Only 2 of the water wells were completed by January 2023, and last week, Madina Village (I attached a video) was finished with its well. So we still have 11 wells left to complete.

SSAAP has a no-debt policy, meaning that the project shouldn't suffer as a whole, and the donors shouldn't suffer for funding things that African people who are not philanthropically-minded, or who engage in criminality, do not value. In other words, we don't cater to corruption or thieves. We have a Microloan Project in Zambia that literally, we have never even lost \$1 on, and our Loan Pool exceeds \$10,000 ;) What I do is I make the local people find solutions to these issues. Them taking responsibility is mandatory for the project to be theirs/have ownership over it. So I explain to them that there is no more project if we cannot retrieve these losses. And that each and every donor that donated a well will need to see photos/get feedback of their finished water well. And that if this does not happen, then everyone loses/suffers without the provisions of this project.

What I do is that, after having lived here almost 20 years (!!!) - I have deeply studied this culture, and understood that everything here is communally-based. So the solution to the problem is found within the community itself. If the

contractor runs off with the money, perhaps the local people themselves could volunteer some of their services for their own water well; some of the new contractors coming into the project have offered to volunteer some of their services/materials to complete the old water wells, so that there is no debt to the project. The community-base of Africa is the most sustainable resource on this continent (!!!) - more than the diamonds and the gold, I will assure you of that ;) And so, knowing that the people in rural villages have a community mindset (they think of the collective first, then their individual selves and families second), we use the power of their own ways of life to help solve these very large problems within the framework of our project. You would be amazed at how everyone works together to get the job done, to ensure the lifespan of this project stretches into the centuries and thus into the cosmos, rather than that it dies today due to the criminal mindset of a selective few.

That being said, the community rising to the occasion as the expression goes ;), does not excuse the criminality aspect of this situation. And it doesn't help these criminals that my father was a criminal lawyer and is now a magistrate, so we grew up watching crime shows and listening to my father talk about his cases at the dinner table ;) I literally have a network of police, lawyers, and even now: people working at the court, who are going to help me with all of these issues and all of these criminals, one by one. But this is not the work/responsibility of the local people - it is my own. It's not the part of my job I like the most ;), but it is a necessary evil to working in one of the poorest parts of the world. Additionally, there is an Anti-Corruption Commission that works specifically with issues like this, and the Interpol (International Police) that can be utilized as the funds stolen from SSAAP are international, donor-based funds, so the matter is taken quite seriously here. As well, people in Sierra Leone are deeply in need of humanitarian aid services, and they don't want a few to spoil it for the rest.

I am going to the city in June 2023 to report all the crime and fraudulent deeds done by contractors and other trusted false allies to this project, and if the money isn't retrieved (which I don't expect it to be), then the services will still have to be rendered. The bottom line is that the donors don't lose anything, and neither do the local people. I make a situation whereby the perpetrators will be the ones to lose, not the project, and not the donors, that way I can always guarantee donors a product that they have funded/donated to, and the local people will not lose. The people who suffer in all of this criminality are the thieves (because we catch them!) and of course Radiance and I, because it is a serious drain of our energy

and also our inspiration to be here. But, truth be told, I make it up to Radiance when we are back in Livingstone, Zambia and I can buy her a pizza!, and make it up to myself by just being appreciative to live here and be here and it always comes back around in a different way. That is my faith in the Divine. ;)

Donor: is that what you're trying to work out with the police?

Heather: Yes! Please read above. 😊

Donor: are you planning to use the one honest contractor for all the other wells?

Heather: Yes! Our Southeast Field Coordinator has risen to the occasion and has helped clear so many of the issues for this project, as well as the debt. He was given 60 wells for 2023/2024 and I have already promised him 30 more wells for 2024/2025. He is incredible, and I am hoping for more people to come my way who are like him!

Donor: do you sign a notarized agreement with them that they will be paid only after the work is completed according to specific terms?

Heather: Great question. So yes, they sign a contract (though there aren't really notaries here except in the cities of Freetown and Bo), and what happens is that we pay 1/3 upfront, 1/3 halfway through the project, and 1/3 when it is complete. I think I mentioned in the most recent newsletter that we are in the process of building our first house in a very remote area in Sierra Leone. Anyhow, the contractor we hired to build the house we paid his first 1/3, and he ran away with the money and stole about \$1000 of our house-building materials. He will be the first person we report when we go to Freetown!, but a lot of the criminality is like that: the person signs a document, then runs away with whatever money he can get (I write 'he' because most of the criminals here are men, rarely are they women). So of course, I hadn't paid him his second 1/3 or his final 1/3 of the money, but he stole the first 1/3 as well as the \$1000-worth of housing materials. The Ministry of Housing and Lands is also part of helping SSAAP with this particular crime, as it involves not only our safety and our housing, but also the project itself: if we don't have a house, then we can't continue this project sustainability without our own sacred space. Two of the men working for the Ministry of Housing and Lands have applied for water wells for their home

villages and they know that if we don't have housing, their ancestors, family members, and home village will not get a water well. We are all fighting for the same thing - and fighting against the thievery/corruption/disrespect of humanitarian aid efforts.

Donor: does SSAAP have a legal team or lawyer?

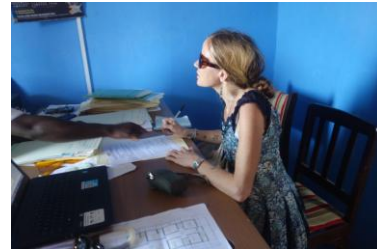
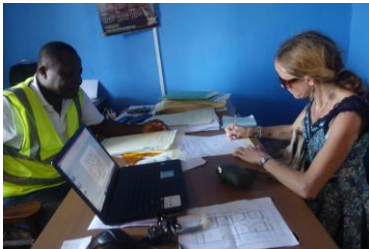
Heather: We used to have an incredible lawyer who we met when I was pregnant with Radiance and setting up SSAAP; he helped me to register SSAAP with the IRS as well as the State of Colorado, and get our 501(c)3 status. He was based in Denver, CO and an expert in Nonprofit Law. He passed away in September 2021, and we haven't been able to replace him. I recently joined a service based in the West Coast of U.S.A., called We the Action!, which helps nonprofits find lawyers for specific questions and issues, pro bono; all the lawyers for We the Action! are volunteers and help with questions pertaining to issues that the nonprofits which are enrolled have. So that is a nice service that SSAAP is utilizing. We have a lawyer in Sierra Leone who helped me get Radiance her citizenship here (her father was trying to deny her of her Sierra Leonean heritage, which is illegal), so I have already contacted him about helping me with the current issues (stolen house funds/stolen water well funds).

Donor: it's terribly sad how humans could treat one another so callously...

Heather: I couldn't agree more. It really gets me down when I think about the layers and levels of selfishness, and how hard I work to secure funds and then to have them stolen from the local people is a nightmare for me. It affects my ability to sleep restfully and even eat (I am someone that cannot eat when I am upset). That being said, this has also been such an abundant lesson for me in how to treat others, and just the gift of donor funds... how precious they are, and how hard I will fight to protect not only the local people in the villages (beneficiaries of the project), but also the funds that protect their projects/resources, and our donors! I don't want people here thinking that Americans have so much money that they can just throw it around. Most everyone who donates to this project does so out of their heart(s), like you do. We don't have any billionaires supporting this project ;) Therefore, it is important too that the African people respect the sweat that Americans go through to provide for their families and sustain life in incredibly-expensive U.S.A., and that the donations to this project mean a lot - a LOT. And that no money should be wasted or squandered.

I am truly thankful for your questions and would you mind if I posted them in the next newsletter - as I assume that many people would have similar questions? Would you be comfortable with that?

Donor: yes, absolutely you can post my questions in your newsletters! of course, anytime anything like that is always okay with me!



Official House Plan and Permission to Build Document issued and stamped by the Ministry of Lands.



The day we signed, dated, stamped, and sealed the Housing documents with the Ministry of Lands, two officials from the Ministry of Lands came to see the current house where we are residing, as Radiance chose to build a house exactly the same on our SSAAP land as the one we are living in right now!

Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone



In May 2023, I came to learn about the Anti-Corruption Commission; there is an Act from 2008 within our Sierra Leone constitution specifically related to Anti-Corruption, called The Anti-Corruption Act 2008, which has a specific Section (Section 37) related to misappropriation of donor funds. Section 37 reads as such:

Misappropriation of donor funds- 37. (1) *Any person who, being a member or an officer or otherwise in the management of any organisation funds or whether a public body or otherwise, dishonestly appropriates property, anything whether property or otherwise, which has been donated to such body in the name, or for the benefit of the people of Sierra Leone or a section thereof, commits an offence.*

(2) *A person who dishonestly appropriates anything whether property or otherwise, which has been donated to himself or any other person in the name of or for the benefit of the people of Sierra Leone or a section thereof, commits an offence.*

(3) *A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million Leones or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.*

On June 7, 2023, Radiance and I travelled to Freetown to report all issues, beginning with the 12 unfinished water wells from 2019/2020, to all the theft/corruption surrounding the building of our house/office, to the unfinished water wells from 2023 (contracted to NW Field Coordinator in February 2023).

On June 8th: Meeting with Anti-Corruption officers in Freetown: Deputy Director of Investigations and the Chief of Investigations: Intelligence Department, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. I learned that the Anti-Corruption Commission is essentially a law enforcement agency rooted by a human rights initiative. The Anti-Corruption Commission(ACC) is headed by the Chief Commissioner, who is a lawyer, and the ACC has its own cell to lock up criminals, as well its objective is to take offenders to court.

If you are interested to learn more about the Anti-Corruption Act of Sierra Leone, which is the 2008 Act, amended in 2019 to grant more power to the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone, both documents can be found online, or contact me and I will email them to you! The officers I met were impressed with my record-keeping, precision to detail, and ability to remember almost photographically events and situations, to which I paid my respects to my father, who is a lawyer and impeccable with filing, order, and details.



Heather with officials from Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Headquarters in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. The officials inform me that there has been so much theft of donor funds from aid bodies such as UK AID, USAID, JAICA, UNICEF, Red Cross, etc. that they strongly advise all humanitarian aid projects (such as SSAAP) to register with the ACC and work with them on every contract, every cent administered through the project from now on, just as a suggestion to prevent further corruption to SSAAP in the future. I told them that this was probably the best idea I had heard the whole time I had been in Sierra Leone! And that I would be an advocate for ACC and spread the word about their dedication.



Visit to our SSAAP house/office site on Wednesday, July 12th with the Anti-Corruption Commission branch in Port Loko, Northwest Region, Sierra Leone.

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, SSAAP visited Rofainka Village to check the progress of the Rofainka Village water well, which was contracted on February 3, 2023.



The water well should have been done by March 31, 2023, and so we reported the issue to the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone. They took us to Rofainka Village on July 12, 2023, so that we could see with our own eyes what still needs to be finished on the water well.





The Anti-Corruption Commission will deal with the contractor to make sure the water well gets finished, but the well must be finished after the rainy season ends in October 2023 (as the water table is too high right now, during the rainy season), and as Radiance and I are leaving Sierra Leone on August 2, 2023, we will have to visit your finished water well when we come back to Sierra Leone in November 2024.

On July 12, 2023, SSAAP also visited Matete Village to check the progress of the Matete Village water well with the Anti-Corruption Commission.



The Matete Village water well, just like the Rofainka Village water well, should have been done by March 31, 2023.





When we arrived at Matete Village, I was upset because the size of the village was so small; we prefer to help larger villages, or to help as many people as possible through one water well. Anyhow, it was starting to rain, and we sat underneath a small patio veranda with most of the people in the village, minus the Chief, who I came to learn later is a traditional African healer. One young man, say in his late 20's, really caught my eye. He was so pure, and gracious, and his heart glowed. He used crutches and had only one leg. I asked to see the water source the people were using previously, and he volunteered to take us down a very steep and narrow path - which he maneuvered better than I, even on crutches! As we were walking, he explained to me that this village is small, but important: a traditional healer helps people from all over the country here [this is his home] and that it doesn't make sense for people to come to a village to receive treatment and healing but to drink dirty stagnant water. He was right! My daughter Radiance and I grasped each other's hands: a light bulb had gone off. Our Northwest Field Coordinator, who was given a contract not only for the Rofainka Village water well but also for the Matete Village water well, lost his wife a few weeks before we flew into Sierra Leone on November 4, 2022. She died of Sickle Cell Anemia, which in Sierra Leone is a death sentence, but is treated in the West with simple medication, according to my physician in Colorado. No more than thirty minutes before arriving at the site, I received a text message from the Northwest Field Coordinator, informing me that his son, who was also diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia, died in the night at 10 months old. The Northwest Field Coordinator had asked me if we could honor this particular village with a water well, as the traditional healer had tried so hard to save his wife, though she had died in the village, he had helped so many others heal. I hadn't made the connection: that this was the same village the NW Field Coordinator had asked me to assist this particular village all the way back in December 2022. It was a personal commitment he had made.

The water source was horrific: stagnant water, with black flies (which cause River Blindness or *Onchocerciasis*) swarming, and people laundering their clothes and bathing while other people fetched water to use to cook with and drink. The young man who escorted us, said, with a smile: "The African doctor told me that I was either going to lose my life, or my leg, and so I chose to lose my leg." Then he shook his head: "I came here with two feet, and I shall leave with one."

This young man's attitude: so grateful, and gracious, and Love-oriented, touched me so deeply. The whole walk back to the village from the water source, he thanked me over and over for helping this little village that was trying to heal people. And now, I feel grateful to him: he reminded me of why I have come here, despite what sometimes feels like there is a tsunami against me, and the deeper and greater mission and vision of why we are here. Sometimes, the daily struggles of having clean water, edible food, and dealing with the corruption wears on me, and I forget why I am here. The power of Love is that it works in a circle: this young man, walking with one leg and crutches, was grateful to me, and now, I am grateful to him. Others remind us of how much we Love others, and ourselves, and the cycle repeats itself. I have often thought that the human experience is nothing more than we as angels learning how to live on a lower dimension on this planet.

I have often thought, and spoken of, and shared with my daughter, that the privilege I was born with, as well the abundance in my life, was not gifted to me for no reason at all. Rather, it was to be used for a higher good and a greater Light than even something I can comprehend consciously. It is worth my life, my energy, my time, my fund-raising, everything, if I can help some of the most destitute people on the planet. The least I can offer is my life itself. And I may fail - and have failed many times! - but trying, every day of my life, is my version of a life well-lived.

Since my childhood, I knew that my life wasn't mine, and that something greater was in control of everything; I would make little choices and do my best along the way, but that a greater force was guiding me and that all I had to do was surrender to it. I never had big dreams of being a successful business owner or having a large house or a huge vehicle; my version of success has always been on the work I do every day of my life on my Soul. In an odd way, my life has never meant much to me... I don't know how to explain this intangible, but I never thought I (my ego self) was anything big. I got tattoos all over my body (and continue to) as I felt my skin to be a canvas and that my life itself was Art. I always valued my life as being in the hands of something that wasn't my own, and that I would always be protected as long as I lived if I lived in Love, and in a space of Trust in the Divine. It is a privilege to be here in Africa, working on water wells and other programs (though to me, none as dire as the water wells), that I often forget, as I get mucked down in the dirt of the daily.



Above, the water source at Matete Village – and the reason that SSAAP needs to finish their water well!: (left), people take water from the swamp for drinking, bathing, laundering, and cooking; (right), the swamp runoff eventually creates a stream; the people are drinking from the same water source they are laundering their clothing in.



The film from the washing soap which remains in the water source is evident in the photo above; please note the top left side of the photograph.

Thank you for your patience with us!

*

On Wednesday, July 19th, a family that we know came over to talk to us about keeping our luggage while we are gone). The husband said to me: "Guess what I saw on the news today?" I said: "What?" He said: "The ACC (Anti-Corruption Commission) said that they arrested 2 people who had stolen from a water well project." My jaw dropped! He said: "Yes, your story made national Sierra Leonean news."

They had prepared me at their headquarters in Freetown a month prior that it was a big case! I reported 11 offenders (individuals) + 1 shop (where my housing materials were purchased) to the Anti-Corruption Commission, and they told me it would be taken seriously. As the SSAAP case covers 4 districts in Sierra Leone (Moyamba, Port Loko, Kambia, Tonkalili), it is considered a large-scale project, thus they promised they would not take it lightly. Let's see what they can retrieve back from our stolen house and the water wells (the 67 wells from 2023 will finish; the 12 water wells from 2019/2020 are problematic, because there have been so many contractors assigned to them, and they still are not finished).

Many of you who know me know an aspect of my personality: that I report every injustice that comes my way, everything from a rude customer service representative in the U.S.A. to people selling molding, rotten bananas on the streets in Zambia! My daughter will tell you that I have even been known to intrude on RTD buses or in the checkout line of a grocery store in the States whereby someone else is being mistreated; I always tell her: "Stand up for injustice, whether it is against you or someone else, it is all the same." These have all been lessons to prepare me to deal with the bigger battles.

I went to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) NW Regional Headquarters a total of 7 times from June 21 to July 26, 2023 to make my Statement; each visit I would stay approximately 2-6 hours, reporting corruption to SSAAP. The employees were making jokes that we should set up a room with a bed, and I ought to just sleep at the office and call it 'home'. When complete, I had reported eleven people and one shop to the ACC, and my Statement was over 54 pages long. I reported the incomplete SSAAP Headquarters (house, office, toilets), as well as the housing materials having been stolen by the contractor(s) hired to complete the housing project; I reported that out of 14 water wells funded in 2019/2020, only 3 had completed; I reported that of 67 water wells funded in 2023, only 25 water wells are complete and 42 are still being constructed (though the water well completion deadline was July 15, 2023). I reported both NW and SE Field Coordinators, our project Veterinarian, our project land surveyor, the house Contractor, the shop that sold us our housing materials who allowed the house Contractor to steal our materials from their shop, our Land Surveyor for the project, all 3 contractors SSAAP hired in 2019/2020 who are responsible for the 11 water wells still not having reached completion almost four years later, the man making the bricks for our house, a man from one of the villages who stole 10 bags of cement from our project, and the man we hired to construct 8 beacons on our land. The Senior Investigation Officer who took my Statement and I had a nice interaction, almost that I could call friendship – given the long hours I spent in his office.

The day before the Statement was finished, on July 25, 2023, the Senior Investigation Officer seemed frustrated and irritated while I was giving my Statement; finally he said to me: “The biggest problem to the project is you.” I asked him what he meant. He said: “You gave contracts for water wells to people who are not structural engineers.” I asked him: “So, where are the structural engineers in your country?” He did not respond to this question, but rather continued to insult me: “You gave contracts to people not using legal language.” With this, I burst out laughing. I said: “I could no more give a contract written in English that I, as a native English speaker, could not understand, to someone who speaks English as his third or fourth language than I could give him a contract written in Mandarin. I write contracts so that the people who are signing them can understand what they are signing; I don't want them to sign something that they don't understand, so that is why I use simple English in my contracts.” Then he said something I will never forget; he said to me: “You are one of the conspirators for your own project.” Again, I shook my head and said to him: “What are you talking about? Our donors, our funders, our supporters, and our Board of Directors know every Leone, every USD we spend on this project; they approve the projects we do, and they provide advice and support in administration of all that we are doing here. There is nothing that I am doing here that is not backed 100% by the very people funding the project. There is nothing I can do without their consent and approval, and this is in accordance to U.S.A.'s Nonprofit Laws, which work in harmony with the U.S.A.'s Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I know that you don't want to blame your own people for their negligence in a project intended to support and uplift them and only them, but shifting the blame to me and all the people who support all of my efforts is juvenile as well as it is dark. The project is a gift to the most destitute people of the society, and if the people of Sierra Leone do not see it that way, then we will just take the project somewhere where people do.”

He went on to say that the project lacked structure, and that both the NW and the SE Field Coordinators should have been paid an ongoing salary (something to the tune of \$800/month), as well

as pay for their medical expenses and pension, which I stated to him does not fall within the framework of the project, as everyone working with the project is a volunteer: myself included, as well as our Board of Directors in the U.S.A., and that anyone who received money from the project would be given a contract; he continued by saying that without a formal office for the project, and without motorbikes for people to use to monitor the project, then the project would not be effective – and that we needed people to work with by our side that would not lie, cheat, and steal from the project.

Again, I began to laugh while I shook my head. “Did I not just report eleven individuals to you? Some of these men I have been working with for a decade, some for even eight years. If someone cannot be trusted after working with him for ten years, then wouldn’t you say that is a fault on the part of that person – rather than on this organization? Our project is small-scale and will always be this way, intended to benefit the most destitute members of the society and intended to provide employment opportunities to people who might not have any other opportunities. This is the philosophy and structure of the project. And while I agree that the project must undergo a transition as well as a transformation in order to survive here, perhaps it isn’t a good fit for this country. I haven’t done anything wrong; I have over-supplied you with documentation which is why you are so frustrated with me right now: my attention to detail. Every receipt, every contract, every piece of paper that someone signed consenting to something – I have submitted to the Commission. The only fault that is my own is for Loving and trusting your countrymen enough to want to help them – that is the only fault that lies with me.”

It took me walking back to our [rented] house that day to realize where the discrepancy was. In Sierra Leone, small grassroots organizations do not exist. The country is aided only by large-scale, government-funded organizations such as PLAN International, UKAID, USAID, JAICA, UNICEF, the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP), EDUCAID, BRAC (funded by the UK’s government), and Save the Child. These heavily-funded organizations spend most of their funding on overhead: paying for office spaces, computers, electricity, vehicles, motorbikes, salaries for workers (including pensions and medical care). All of these expenses are heavy, as well are unsustainable as keeping a motorbike from getting stolen while we are away from the country would be difficult. Fundraising to pay someone’s salary (not including pension and medical benefits) becomes quickly parasitic and not something I want to commit to. I prefer our grassroots model of Volunteerism: everyone working with SSAAP is a volunteer, including myself, and all proceeds go directly to the people themselves (or as much as possible, keeping Administrative costs as low as possible). As well, in the model indicated above, very, very little of the actual funding ever goes towards the projects they are intended to implement, and is squandered in the urban areas (either in the capital city, or in the larger towns). The Senior Investigation Officer was scolding me for not structuring SSAAP the way that large-scale projects operate in this country, without understanding how grassroots projects work; SSAAP’s model was born from the U.S. Peace Corps in Zambia, where volunteers are sent to the remote villages to implement projects in harmony, sustainability, and in relationship with the local people; the Peace Corps Volunteer is a volunteer, and is not paid, and anyone working with the project will automatically receive natural benefits from it – just as countless Zambians have from our 19-year duration in Zambia, and just as my daughter and I have. SSAAP’s model of Volunteerism, and of

working through one's heart to serve those less-fortunate, is part of Mohandas ("Mahatma") Gandhi's Village Swaraj principle, as well as his Constructive Programme. Gandhi's philosophy was that charity should never be a money-making business endeavor (unless of course to fundraise for the cause itself), and SSAAP shares in his philosophy as well.

If Africa doesn't humble you, nothing will. If Africa hadn't already humbled me, this interaction with the Senior Investigation Officer truly did. He belittled, demeaned, and degraded not only SSAAP, but also me – personally. When I reached home and told Radiance about it, she said: "*Report him!*" I am working on my letter to his bosses as we speak. ;)

In conclusion, Radiance and I will spend from August 2023 until November 2024 away from this nation. While we are gone, we will see what transpires with this ACC case, and the commitment that the people have to this project. When we come back here, we will continue to work towards completion of the 42 wells for 2023 not yet completed prior to our departure, as well as the 11 wells from 2019/2020 not yet completed. Whether we fund more projects or continue with the water wells will be left in the hands of the Divine. This nation, in need of assistance more than any other soil I have ever set my foot upon (except, perhaps, South Sudan), needs this project; they need village toilets to prevent the open defecation that is their current system for relieving human waste; they need school sponsorships to promote children to go to school wearing uniforms and having a pencil and an exercise book to write in – these materials help them to take school more seriously; they need water wells in the remote villages – and they need them *desperately*. But I cannot make this decision for them, based upon my research, my findings here, my experiences, and my hard-won Truth. They have to want this project enough to choose to work with it, rather than steal from it. They have to decide that they are worthy and worth the Love that SSAAP ultimately is. The project is ready for them when they are ready for the project.



Transparency

In my first meeting with the Senior Investigation Officer for the Anti-Corruption Commission, I said to him: "I should be like water; I should be clean and clear enough for you to drink me. I shouldn't be spoiled by invisible parasites and toxins; I should be crystalline – as clean as the water in the water wells our project is digging here."

My blood: ancient family and ancestral friends, know me as someone who is incredibly open, likely even perhaps to the brink of “dangerous” vulnerability. I am someone who believes that our vulnerability is our strength – not our weakness – and only in true vulnerability can we ever have deep surrender. I read once in one of my kundalini tantra yoga books from India that what is within us (on the inside) should also be without us (on the outside). We should be on the outside what we are on the inside, with no separation between the two. I am incredibly proud of this project, and its accomplishments, even despite the tremendous setbacks that Radiance and I have experienced here. If anything, I have come to value the project more because of all the trauma it has been through in the last few months with the thieving of our SSAAP house and the lack of completion of so many of our water wells.

We are required through IRS law to submit our 990 forms every year (990EZ, Schedules A, B, G, and O), though we pay no taxes to the United States government. Since SSAAP’s origin in 2009, all of our 990EZ forms and their corresponding Schedules are located on SSAAP’s website (www.ssaap.org); I am someone who enjoys accounting, budgeting, and organizing money. I keep an ongoing Revenue and Expense budget to log daily expenditures as well as incoming donations to the project. As we are departing Sierra Leone in a few days, I took a look at the Revenue and Expense worksheet I keep on my desktop and thought that it would be an interesting addition to this Quarterly Newsletter. It shows the ability to keep project expenses from $85\% < x < 94\%$ of our overall donations, and our administrative expenses very low: $6\% < x < 15\%$. I am very proud of this! My favorite line-item in the budget is highlighted in **RED BOLD** below: Line E4 for “Food”: \$380 USD from 1 January 2023 until 28 July 2023. If you take $\$380 / 7 \text{ months} = \$54.29/\text{month}$ for Radiance and I to eat. If you divide this again by 2 people, it yields: $\$27.14/\text{person}/\text{month}$. Radiance is a good cook and as we prepare our food ourselves, we purchase it at the local market and therefore it is incredibly cheap. There are many things on this Expense Sheet that might intrigue you: the way that SSAAP saves on costs so that approximately 90% of its resources can be used on the projects themselves (rather than on Administrative “Overhead” expenses). Please feel free to look at all our previous years (2009-2022) IRS Reporting Forms (990EZ, Schedules A, B, G, and O) on our website, and let me know if you have any questions.

Working with the Anti-Corruption Commission for the last month+, has taught me about the importance of being transparent and how pure transparency brings in the highest brilliance of Light. Darkness, I believe, is a density form that comes from lower energy realms, which is what the majority of the workers for the Anti-Corruption Commission carry in their energetic fields; they don't know how to clear themselves from the negativity and darkness they deal with on a day-to-day basis. I have a sage stick I burn to clear myself every time I come home from the Anti-Corruption Commission office! I drink tea and read before going to their office. I want to take care of myself so that I can be of the most service to the planet; I just want to be purity: Light and Love, incarnated. :)

I want our SSAAP Supporters to know the Truth, so that when we come back to Sierra Leone in November 2024, you will understand that we might not be doing anything other than cleaning up the mess from 2023 - and this might take years! Africa is slow, steady time: the heartbeat of the Earth is gentle, slow and sure. Africa is the heart of Mother Earth. We are all connected to Africa, the way

that we are all connected to the Earth. There is no rush here, and whenever I catch myself hurrying to keep up with my own ego and moving with too much speed, Africa crushes me back into the dirt again. She is very good at doing that to me! Remember that we are pioneers in this field, just as Jane Goodall was with her chimpanzee work. There are many scientists in the world, but who could go and live among chimpanzees? Jane was progressive, and she is a pioneer. There are many NGO's and foreign aid organizations operating in Africa, but who among them goes into these remote pockets: the jungle of Sierra Leone and the dry bush of Zambia, and assists with water wells for the members of society that are degraded, humiliated, and out-casted by the more privileged members of the society? SSAAP does. We are pioneers in the field, and I what I intend to do is pave a trail of golden Light so that in the future, others may follow, and redeem the village, as it is the Soul of Africa. Interestingly enough, the village is also the part of African society that is least-respected and most-thoroughly degraded, yet ironically: it is also the sect of the society that the rest of the society could never live without, as the village people are the agriculturalists, farmers, and laborers growing the food that is consumed by all. The people of rural Africa should be respected, and SSAAP's motivation is to promote them to the best of our abilities. We are a grassroots organization focused on uplifting the remote and essential areas of the society, and offering opportunities for people which might not exist anywhere else.

Here is an excerpt from our 2023 record-keeping books:

SSAAP 2023 Tax Year [Use for IRS 990EZ & Schedules A, B, G, and O]: EXPENSES

Exchange rates:

19.7 Leones ~ \$1 USD (Sierra Leone)

ALL RATES ROUNDED UP

HCC: CHECK EXCHANGE RATE ON 12/31/2023 for accuracy

Simwatachela Sustainable Agriculture and Arts Program				
Category	Description	Amount (in USD)		
A	INFRASTRUCTURE			
A.1	PayPal fees	40		
A.2	Google Play (Gmail account)	21		
A.3	Phone fees (Airtel 'Orange' airtime): 1278 Le	65		
A.4	Internet fees (Q cell bundles): 1315 Le	67		
	Sub-Total	193		

B	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		
B.1	Cost of Street Beast jewelry-making materials: 60 Le + \$19	22	
B.2	Fix SSAAP/phone/ battery/phone accessories	54	
	Sub-Total	76	
C	OFFICE EXPENSES		
C.1	Postage/stamps/mailling/shipping : 1445 Le	76	
C.2	Stationary/photocopying/printing/lamination/scanning	28	
C.3	Office supplies: receipt book: Le 17	1	
C.4	Radiant Street Beast stationary expenses: business cards, stamps: 58 Le	3	
C.5	Homeschool literacy books: 322 Le	16	
	Sub-Total	124	
D	PURCHASE OF AFRICAN ART		
D.1	Purchase of African art	901	
D.2	SSAAP webshop art: 220 Le	11	
D.3	Gifts for SSAAP supporters / SSAAP-SL Field Coordinators: 381 Le	19	
	Sub-Total	911	
E	LIVING EXPENSES: Sierra Leone (01/01-08/02/2023)		
E.1	Medications: 20 Le	1	
E.2	Bicycle & parts: 1270 Le	67	
E.3	Transportation: 397 Le	20	
E.4	Food: 7486.5 Le	380	
E.5	General living expenses: charcoal, washing soap, underwear, light bulbs, matches, incense, rain boots, clothing, dishes, gourd spoons: 1882 Le	96	
E.6	Toiletries: 375 Le	19	

	E.7	Clothing/tailor: 15 Le	1	
	E.8	Lodging rental housing (while in town waiting for SSAAP house to be built): 200 Le	10	
		Sub-Total	594	
	F	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT		
	F.1	SoS: Secretary of State Colorado filing fee for 2024		<i>Pay in Dec. 2023</i>
	F.2	SoS: Secretary of State Ohio filing fee for 2024		<i>Pay in Dec. 2023</i>
		Sub-Total		
	G	INTERNATIONAL EXPENSES/TRAVEL-RELATED		
	G.1	Change air ticket: FNA to LUN on 2 August 2023 (change from April 5, 2023)	312	
		Sub-Total	312	
	H	PROJECT-RELATED EXPENSES		
	H.1	Housing: SE Region cement plastering for 2 houses	231	
	H.2	Contractor: SSAAP Headquarters on Robombe land: 13,000 Le	660	
	H.3	SSAAP-SL House and Office: Robompe Headquarters materials: 113,507 Le	5609	
	H.4	Water wells x 67: Sierra Leone 2023 well materials costs NW & SE	12,334	
	H.5	Water wells x 67: Sierra Leone 2023 contractors fees NW & SE	12,334	
	H.6	Vaccination / Animal-rearing Projects: 878 Le	45	
	H.7	Radiant Street Beasts: medications and materials	5	
	H.8	Plaques for Zambia water wells (made in Sierra Leone): 354 Le	18	
		Sub-Total	31,236	
	I	LAND EXPENSES		

I.1	Land appreciation fees: Rosint (1700 Le), Rombompe (500 Le): 2200 Le ; Regent Chief Rosint (300 Le): 2500 Le	127	
I.2	Sierra Leone: Land Survey Contract #1, Installment #2 & #3: Rombompe/Rosint, Port Loko District, done by Sahr Gandhi	412	
I.3	Sierra Leone: Land Survey Contract #2, Installment #1: Roisin-Thallah, Kambia District / Tonkalili District, done by Sahr Gandhi	281	
I.4	Land Conveyance document by Barrister Bangura: 4000 Le	203	
	Sub-Total	1023	
	TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2023	34,469	

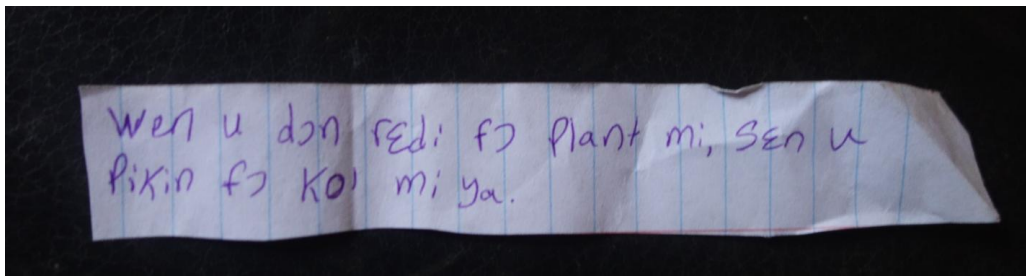


The greatest investment we can ever make on this planet is in the planet Herself: in Nature, and all Her beautiful creatures ~ human beings, animals, soil, stone, water, insects.



So prevalent in this country is child abuse, which I have never been able to fathom. Sierra Leone hosts rampant child abuse, which is a humiliation to the nation itself. Even for African standards, we are far behind here in terms of treatment of human beings (specifically, children), more than 100 years behind the United States in terms of forensics (they do not use fingerprint evidence here in criminal cases, as they do not have the technology), and more than 200 years behind the West (Europe, Australia, U.S.A., Canada)

in terms of medical science. Our children are supposed to be stronger, braver, brighter, and wiser than we, as their parents, are. This is the natural cycle of evolution: to produce better offspring than we are. Nature dictates that we should encourage our children to be better versions of ourselves! When we beat our children, it teaches them no lessons – other than violence. The youth of this nation, generally are more engaged in criminality, in sexual crimes, and in stealing than in the past generations, which is one of the central reasons why the country is not developing as a whole. Beating children is not a form of discipline; it is a form of both torture and violence, and here it is not only commonplace here, but is also expected. The nation is under-developed, centrally, for this reason alone: child abuse. If parents are not ready to take their children seriously, this will be a detriment not only to the progress of this society, but also a setback to the natural evolution of human beings who should otherwise be thriving. Abusing of our children is worse than abusing of ourselves; you abuse your children, and it translates into: you do not Love yourself. In fact, it translates into an even worse way of hurting yourself: to injure your own child.



This is for anyone who thinks that Krio is [almost] the same as English; it is not. When spoken quickly enough, especially by a native Krio-speaker, one is unable to detect any English. It is truly a foreign language to a native English speaker.

Radiance’s home-school places emphasis on reading and writing, as well as speaking and hearing, all three languages she speaks: English (U.S.A.), ciTonga (Zambia), and Krio (Sierra Leone, as well her tribal language). I encourage her to write notes to people, as I do, in Krio, as it helps her to learn the language better. You will see in her note above that many of the letters in the Krio alphabet are letters we do not have in our English alphabet.

Anyone who wants to guess what her note is saying, and guesses correctly, gets to buy Radiance and I: a frozen pizza from the local supermarket, and a few cake donuts with fudge icing from the “Reduced Cost” shelf of the supermarket – throw a few jelly beans and some boxed Kraft Mac & Cheese in there as well! I am not on a quest for healthy food; there is nothing but organic food here, and every now and again, some false processed food from the West is more than what I crave; I swear there is nutritional value in its joy.

Her note is saying: “When you done ready for plant me, send your pikin for come here.”

Plant[ing]: *refers to getting your hair braided in a traditional African braid (many braids on the head)*

Pikin: *means ‘child’*

Translation of the note: “When you are ready to braid my hair, have your child come here and tell me either to come to your house or you come here. Ready and waiting!”



“Human beings were intended to be guardians of Earth.

Faith and compassionate objectivity are being overlooked in the power struggle. There can no longer be just an idea of faith or occasional compassion. Instead, it’s time to consistently live life with these principles daily as the conscious foundation. Saying words out of habit and saying genuine, heartfelt loving words are completely different. More and more souls are waking up to an inner awareness of a life that is deeply connected to the natural world and the rhythms of living each day as an important aspect of personal beingness. This new life is above and beyond the drama on the world stage.

This awareness has always existed within each soul, but the attention of humanity has been directed outward... Revelation is bringing all the old standards of life into question, and the habit of looking the other way no longer works.”

~ Molly Rowland, “Change Your Focus from War to Love”; from Sedona Journal of Emergence, 2023

This human calamity: human beings (who have very sensitive internal organs and systems) imbibing the same water that animals (that have very strong systems for absorbing filthy water) drink, will never be justified. We aim to correct this only in a small, intimate, organically sustainable way: village by village, human being by human being, one by one: water well by water well. SSAAP is up for the challenge!



If we continuously compare Africa to the West – and assign both African customs and African people to the role of “tragically poor” – they will always be lesser according to our value system. As well, also in doing so, we are deeply disrespecting them in the process. In our narrow-mindedness, we are overlooking the deeper, broader brushstrokes when we decide that some people on the planet are “rich” while others are “poor”: no such bipolarity on the planet exists among human beings. We all have our own poverty, be it material or spiritual poverty, the absence of good health or peace of mind, lack of true friends or connections to family, or mourning the loss of someone we Love ~ just as we all have our own abundance. Categorically-speaking, there is not a collective of people on this planet without some form of wealth: organic sun-grown food, healthy lifestyle, quality sleep without light pollution, less stress, time on their hands to relax and enjoy the cycles of time, strong and brave children, and an intimate connection to both Nature and to other human beings. If we decide to determine wealth based upon the categories I just mentioned, well then, the Africans are the wealthiest people currently living on the planet!



Do things for people you will never meet... your heart gets clean this way...

... Love strangers, birds, snowflakes, and people you don't even like...

...value people who you don't agree with [they are teaching you more than people who do]...

... and trust in the process and its greater conscious, Cosmic plan,

which is as better work of Art than anything you or I could have come up with together.

“You use the water of your being, because you are made of water... You understand more about how to communicate water to water, which you call telepathy.”



Be grateful for the water on the planet and bless it; give thanks for it, and help clear it of any toxic things that have been put into it, either energetically or physically. As you are doing that, recognize that you are also helping to clear toxicity in your own water and in every other living beings' water... 2023 will be a year of focus on water, including the water that you are, and you will joyously discover how, like drops of water in the same sea, you are all connected. Through your integrative process, you will discover how to be in service of all through the higher choices you make individually and collectively.”

~ by Pia Orleane and Cullen Baird Smith, in “Predictive Guidelines for Your Spiritual Evolution” from Sedona Journal of Emergence, 2023