

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Training!

From September 12 through 23, we were training in yet another village, Gbintiri. It is the third village in two months' time. And this Sunday, October 2, we leave for the fourth village, Bakpaba. It can get exhausting! Teaching, as all teachers know, takes a lot out of you. And doing it in another culture with the help of a translator doesn't make it any easier on us. But this is the reason for which we came to Ghana. And, therefore, we rejoice to be doing the work of the Lord, even if it means we're getting a bit weary!

As in all places, we are blessed to be distributing the Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord. For those of you without much Book of Concord (BOC) experience, the BOC was first presented in 1580 as the definitive collection of our Lutheran confessions. It contains the Augsburg Confession of 1525, the Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, the Smalcald Articles (a writing by Luther in 1537 expressing his faith in case he died), the Treatise on the Power and the Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord (a document written in 1577 after Luther's death to lay before the different Lutheran factions what is the definitive Lutheran confession of some disputed articles). In addition, the editors of the BOC also included the three ecumenical creeds – the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian – to show that what the Lutheran Church was teaching was nothing new. In fact, the reformers were merely calling the Church back to its original faith, what the early teachers of the faith, the apostles, had contended for all those many years ago.

In the USA, whenever one of our LCMS pastors is ordained, the candidate for ordination swears an oath that he accepts the BOC *because* it is a faithful exposition of the Word of God in the Scriptures. (Other Lutherans only subscribe "in so far as" it agrees with Scripture.) By that oath, we are thanking God for the guidance He gave to the Lutheran reformers who based their confession of faith on the Word of the Lord. That oath is taken here in Ghana, too, by our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG). And so, this at times rather heady book is taught by us here so that when these men come to their ordination they too may make this BOC their confessional guide, their helper by summarizing the clear Word of God on a variety of topics.

As we prepare to come stateside next month, we are blessed to be visiting parishes that take this same subscription of the BOC. It is a comfort and a joy to know that we have people standing beside us as we stand beside the people of the ELCG. In a world that seeks to pervert the Word of God to their own likes, that changes Law into Gospel and Gospel into Law, we do give thanks for you faithful people; and we implore you to pray long and hard for this work. The devil afflicts us in many ways. But with your simple praying of the Lord's Prayer for us, we curse the devil by saying, "Deliver us from the evil one." Praise the Lord!





Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our area director and his wife, Gary and Stephanie Schulte.
- Pray for our team here in West Africa. In Ghana: Rev/Mrs. David Erber, Rev/Mrs. Mark Moss, Rev/Mrs. Steven Schumacher, Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson, and Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermitt
In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker and Rev. Jacob Gaugert.
In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte and Rev. Fred Reinhardt.
- Pray for Bishop Flynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the start of a new school year in the Togo seminary.
- Pray for Pastor Konbat
- Ask God to bless our Tamale congregation with a spirit of outreach.

You can write us at:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
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Tamale, Ghana
West Africa

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Taking Care of Business in Tamale

While we are busy with training, there still is a congregation in Tamale that we need to serve as well. We are looking, by the bishop's help, to construct a new worship building, as well as renovate an existing building on the property. This renovation is to fix a house, recently gutted by our former tenant, into a house Pastor Konbat can live in. Please, pray for both of these projects.

We are also glad to be confirming two young men, Jeremiah and John, this coming Sunday, October 2nd. Please, pray that they may be faithful their whole lives to their confession and promises.

Home Service Schedule - *Come and See Us!*

October 26 - Visit at the International Center, Kirkwood, MO

October 30 - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, LA

November 5 (midday) - Mission Central, Mapleton, IA

November 5 (evening) and 6 - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fremont, NE

November 8 - Meeting with pre-seminary and pre-deaconess students at Concordia University, Seward, NE, in Rev. Blanco's class

November 9 - St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Seward, NE

November 13 - St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cornelius, OR

November 20 - Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, Ashburn, VA

November 27 - Celebration Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL

December 3 and 4 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mt. Prospect, IL

December 8 - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

A New Granddaughter on the Way!

We were so happy to hear from Joshua and Sarah, our son and daughter-in-law, that they are expecting a little girl in February of next year. They have already chosen a name, Rachel. Please, pray for Sarah's and the baby's health and that God would tend this little one. And also pray for Joshua as he takes on new and very important responsibilities as father to this little child. We will get to see them while we travel, and we are looking forward to baby shopping with them!

There is a Dagbanli proverb; **A dima ka balima.** It means, "You can't negotiate with your enemy." Your enemy, the devil, seeks to destroy your faith, to tempt you to wander from the Good Shepherd. He will accuse you of your sins, and he will afflict you with his finger-pointing. Don't negotiate with him. He will never give in. Instead, confess your faith in Christ. Remind the devil of your Savior, what He did for you on His cross, and that now His grave is empty. And sing hymns and psalms with gusto! These will always drive him away. Don't let the one who will be thrown into hell afflict you. Rather, stand on the Word and the promises of Christ. Why would you negotiate? He has lost and Christ has won the eternal victory. Hallelujah!

We commend you and yours to Christ Jesus, our Lord,
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central

P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16

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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Ghana," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

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