

# The Glories of God in Ghana

*Psalm 87*

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: [dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org](mailto:dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org)



## Growing in Grace

We've all seen the sign, "Be patient with me – God isn't through with me yet." It's funny, to be sure. But it can also be used as a bit of an excuse. We use it to mean, "Please overlook my sinful ways because I'm still mortal!" And then, because of it, we are free to sin. We might not be that crass, but that is where the old man, the sinful nature, takes us from time to time. It is such a problem that the Holy Spirit took time to place warnings against such a practice: Romans 6:1; I Corinthians 15:34; and Hebrews 10:26-27 *et al.*

Lately, we have been busy with training. Pastor Moss and I, both in Bawku (below) and in Bunkpurugu (above), have been helping the leaders of the local church to understand the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions more and more. That is fitting and makes perfect sense. Men who are leading these churches should, just like parish pastors in the USA, be constantly growing in their understanding of the Word and in faith.

But such a practice is not an end to itself. It is not enough for the members of a congregation to say, "Well, I don't know the Scriptures or the Catechism that well, but I have a pastor that does!" Rather, we should receive these men, these pastors, as people through whom God is blessing us, giving us growth in the faith. St. Peter ends his second epistle with these words: *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."* (II Peter 3:18)

How is God glorified? We usually think of hymns both mortal and angelic as the means by which God is glorified. Perhaps we imagine full congregations and nicely-robed choirs lifting their voices in praise of the Triune God. True enough. But God is also glorified when we grow in God's Word. *"You have exalted above all things your name and Your word."* (Psalm 138:2) The greatest hymn we can sing, therefore, is the one that meditates on God's name and on His word!

So Peter's exhortation – *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* – is a call for the whole Church, not merely its leaders, to embrace the blessed and blessing task of taking the words of God into our hands and letting its words have their way with us and not the other way around. To be sure, it is a humbling task. It means that we say, "God, work on me!" It means that we have to learn to hate that which the Lord hates and to love what the Lord loves. It means that we live as those who are already dead, marching with our Lord and with His cross.

As Luther said, "God does not save people who are only fictitious sinners. Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly."





## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our new leaders – Gary and Stephanie Schulte – who have already been a huge blessing to us here!
- 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  
TL 375  
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](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

## Our September Schedule

For the month of September, we will be in one locale only, the Komba village of Gbintiri. Pastor Mark Moss and I will continue our teaching duties there from September 12 through the 23. Please, pray for our abilities and our stamina as this will be the third time teaching these courses, and pray for our students that they would grow in the grace of the Lord.

## 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 9 and 10 – 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 Time of Rejoicing!

When we travel near the border of Togo, we often go over to meet with our LCMS counterparts there – a time of fellowship, sharing in frustrations and joys, and some great food. This year we were able to be there for the opening of the academic year of the confessional Lutheran seminary for Francophone



Africa in Dapaong. It was great to hear their singing of the liturgy in French and to hear the African influences. We thank God for our co-workers there: Jacob Gaugert, Valerie Stonebreaker, and Micah and Robin Wildauer (and family). And we thank God for the new students and their families (above), some of whom have traveled far to grow in the grace of God's word there. Blessings!

We are so grateful that in the midst of all our Stateside travels we will have significant time with each of our children – Joshua and his bride, Sarah, in Thornton, CO; Gretchen and her fiancée, Tom, and Isaiah in Jacksonville, FL; and Jonathan and his new lady friend, the US Air Force, in Biloxi, MS. We can't make it everywhere, but if you are nearby, please come and see us. Grow in God's grace! Grow as His witnesses! And may Christ be glorified in each of us!

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

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 51034c

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](http://www.lcms.org/kaster).

Visit us at [www.facebook.com/kastersinghana](http://www.facebook.com/kastersinghana) - no FB membership needed!