

# The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



## Still in the States and Still Sharing

When we left Ghana in October of last year, we had a return flight booked for December 16. We were looking forward to being with our congregation in Tamale for the Christmas holidays. We had make-up training scheduled for mid-January and a meeting with our regional pastor contacts for late January. We thought we had it all figured out. We thought we had things well in-hand. But that is the problem, we thought we had it all planned out. It was God, rather, who had it all within His almighty hand.

There is a famous line that comes from an inciteful passage from Thomas à Kempis' monumental work, "The Imitation of Christ." He writes: *"For the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom; and in Him they always put their trust, whatever they take in hand. **For man proposes, but God disposes;** neither is the way of man in his own hands."*

God's ways may not be the same as our timing, but it is the best timing. God's ways may not be the same as our plan, but it is the best plan. And so, here in late January, we are still here due to Dale's health issues. But there is good news! We believe we finally have the right diagnosis: tropical sprue, a highly treatable illness that can be cured.

For those of you with celiac sprue, there is no relationship! They aren't sure what causes tropical sprue, and they can only diagnose it from looking at what your body is missing, vitamins D and B as well as folic acid. So, Dale is undergoing a lot of vitamin replacement, and we are looking for a good antibiotic that won't react badly with his system. We ask for your prayers both for his healing as well as for the doctors that they would have wisdom and skill for dealing with this. We will be seeing a specialist, a doctor who has some experience with African tropical diseases, on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Ask our gracious Father in heaven to bless that meeting.

While we are here, we have tried to be good stewards of our time. We visited Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL, on January 15, a congregation with whom we have had no prior contact. It was a warm and welcoming visit, filled with lots of thanks for our service as well as questions about the nature of our work – both as a congregational pastor and as a theological educator in the northeast of Ghana. And we thank God that they collected a door offering to give financial support to the work over there.

We are now praying that we soon will be back in our adopted home city of Tamale, northern Ghana. We hear from them fairly often. They too are praying for Dale's health and for our safe return. And we pray for them. There is so much to do there! There are people who do not know God's love in Christ, and we want to show it to them as we live with them and tell it to them in the words of Scripture itself.

So, wherever God has you at the moment, rejoice, for *"the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom."* May God keep us all in His gracious hand and may Christ be seen and heard from us all. Amen.



## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our area director and his wife, Rev. 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 McDermott  
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 what we believe is the right diagnosis.
- Ask God to give Dale the right medicines for his healing.
- 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."

## Changes Ahead among the West African Team

We know that things are changing for our team in West Africa. There is going to be some moving of people and refocusing of work. We will have more about this next month. But recently, while visiting in Sarasota, I was approached by a layman who was getting ready to go to Vietnam as a short-term missionary. He asked me if I had any advice from my experience. I told him what I tell all who are going to the field, "Be prepared to be flexible. Things change a lot there." We ask God to help all of us in West Africa to be ready to change according His plans. Ask God to bless our team with peace, courage, and strength to do as He would have us to do.

## Once We Return to Tamale

We will need to get things moving again once we return. There is some make-up training that needs to be planned and executed. In addition, we need to prepare for the next round of theological training offered to the men in the four villages. Also, we need to secure funding for the students' books and food for those who come to those training events. Please join us in prayer that the God who alone hears prayers would open His hand and satisfy all our needs that His Word may go forth unfettered.

## We Give Thanks!

We received our December financial report and were encouraged by the generous gifts of our supporters, both old and new. In the month of December alone we received over \$20,000 in gifts to our work. We always hear of our monthly gifts in the next month's report so if our thank you notes seem to lag, know that we have to work within our financial system. So, we want to thank our donors right here for their trust in us. Be assured that your gifts are helping make known the saving name of Jesus!

## People Who Need Your Prayers

In Tamale there are so many prayers needed. Victoria is a faithful Christian mother, whose husband is abusive. Robert is a faithful husband and father who is harassed by an unkind boss and who is struggling to support his family. Lazarus, our convert from Islam, whose eyes are healing from a disease and who is trying to build back up his business that suffered while he was sick.

Here in the United States, please pray for Joshua and Sarah, our son and daughter-in-law, who any day will become parents for the first time. Ask God to bless Rachel, the daughter she carries, with good health and soon to be reborn through the washing of Holy Baptism.

We also ask for prayers for our daughter, Gretchen, and her fiancée, Tom, who will be wed later this year in November, as well as Gretchen's son, our grandson, Isaiah. And we pray for our son, Jonathan, who is serving our country in the Air Force, stationed in Guam.

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 51034

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!