

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Blessings on Your Lenten Journey

Today, the Church catholic, throughout the world, pauses to make its beginning of our annual Lenten journey. Lent is a special time. It gets us back to the basics of Christ crucified (I Corinthians 1:22-24). It also gets us back to the fact that this Christ wants now to reconcile us to the Father (II Corinthians 5:20). This is all done through the mystery of Christ becoming one with our sins so that we might be made one with His righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21). These are the foci of Lent; these are the foci of the Christian faith. Lent is a time that is centered in the basics, just where we all need to be!

An ancient custom during this season, not at all required, is for Christians to give up a favorite thing – chocolate, beer, T.V. An increasing trend is to “pick up something;” that is, to add some act of devotion (e.g., prayer) or some form of charity (e.g., volunteering) to one’s daily life. Though this comes rather late, might I suggest some “picking up” that will aid our ministry in Ghana.

We need prayers from you desperately.

- Our LCMS team in Tamale and throughout Ghana is going through some transition (see the second page). We need you to pray that we who are left are encouraged in our work and given strength to do it. You can also pray for those who are relocating.
- Lazarus, our member who is a former Muslim, needs prayers as his family attempts to unleash dark forces against him in order to bring him back to Islam.
- Robert, our congregational chairman, is having a hard time with an abusive boss and is struggling to provide for his family.
- We need prayers for our health and to help us to find ways to minimize our risk of infections.
- Please, pray for our potential of using Mercy Medical Teams in one of our training sites; this is to draw people to Christ through the small congregation in that village.

We could use more donors to keep us in the field. Perhaps this is a good time to take the dollars you normally spend on something you have given up and set them aside for our Ghana mission. Your tax-deductible gift can be sent to our work at the address on the bottom of the second page. It even tells you how to make out your check!

As far as the Kaster family goes, we could use prayers for Joshua, our oldest, and Sarah, his wife, and Rachel, their newborn child, as they are seeking employment back in Florida or Georgia. We also need prayers for our harried daughter, Gretchen, and her fiancé, Tom, who are preparing to wed in November. And finally, our son, Jonathan, serving with the US Air Force in Guam. On top of that, we have mothers from whom we are separated. Ask God to keep us all in His grace and care.

A blessed Lenten journey to you all,
Pastor Dale and Suzanne Kaster



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. Steven Schumacher, Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson, and Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermott
In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker, and Rev. Jacob Gaugert.
Transitioning to Sierra Leone: Rev. Mark and Susan Moss
In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte and Rev. Fred Reinhardt.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, 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.

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

West African Team in Motion!

Out of the six families that were stationed in Ghana, three of them will be moving. Two of them will be heading to Sierra Leone and one will be heading to Dapong, Togo, after some French language learning in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. While we feel it best to let the families do their own announcing, we can announce that the family that came to help us in Tamale, Rev. Mark and Susan Moss, will be among those going to Sierra Leone. We pray God to bless him in his church planting work and to help us as we move forward only with the help of the native pastor, Rev. John Konbat.

Giardia? Really?!

We are getting close to our return. The tropical/infectious disease doctor that Dale has been seeing diagnosed him with a case of giardia. This is a fairly common parasite in West Africa. Most of the time a course of Flagyl knocks it out and you are fine. But it just seems that it was a particularly pernicious case of it. What has finally worked for Dale is to take the anti-parasite medicine Alinia. Since then Dale's body is getting back to normal. We are hoping that next Wednesday we will get the all-clear and then we will be heading back to Africa.

We Give Thanks!

Our newest grandchild and our only granddaughter made her arrival on February 3. Her name is Rachel Louise. She was 7 lbs. 15 oz., and 20.5 inches long. We are flying tomorrow to see her in Denver, but, quite unexpectedly, they will be moving back to the NE Florida/SE Georgia area. Dale will get to baptize her on Sunday, March 12th. God keep her and her parents, Joshua and Sarah, in His grace and constant care!



Getting to Serve as Pastor

While we wait to return, Dale has been trying to serve where he can. One of his former member's daughter has been hospitalized, fairly seriously. (Her name is Amanda if you could add her to prayers.) She is in and out of surgeries as they struggle to heal her of some bad peritonitis. And there have been a number of old friends that have asked for his ear and his prayers, always given joyfully! Also, on Transfiguration Sunday, Dale got to fill in for our pastor here in Jacksonville. It was the first time in a long time that he was both preacher and celebrant. And tonight, on Ash Wednesday, he will serve as the liturgist for the Service of the Word. So even while here, there has been a lot of ministry to do.

Serve one another as our Lord has served you! And may the blessings of this Lent remain with you always.

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.

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