

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kastors, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



A very small part of the crowd at a local Christian's funeral.

Christ the Victor

Living in the Third World forces one always to learn. Being Americans, we miss all the conveniences to which we are accustomed – grocery stores, one-stop car care, even parking! There is a lot there in the USA that isn't here; so, we spend a lot of time adjusting our way of living, cooking, and serving. But, from time to time, we are even more humbled when we realize what is common to us all: sin, sickness, and death. Rich and poor alike, wise man and fool, all fall under their effect (Psalm 49). It is the great equalizer between us all.

Recently, there were two deaths among people whom we know. The first was the death of one of our member's fathers (i.e., uncle on one's father's side). He was a Christian of another denomination. We went to his "funeral," which was very different from our culture. It proclaimed Christ as Savior that everyone needs, no matter his race or his religion. It was a bold sermon about Christ in a culture that rejects Him as Savior. The second was the death of our night guard's senior brother. He was a Muslim. We were awakened with the news early one morning. All we could do was go to greet in the house, to mourn with them, to express our sorrow for their loss, and to give a gift that will be used to bury the man. In contrast to the Christian funeral, it seemed so empty, so hopeless, and without a sense of victory.

While death comes to all men, it isn't really a great equalizer in the sense that it doesn't bring all men to the same end. To the non-Christian, death is far worse as the person finds himself outside of the kingdom of heaven and in the same torment for all who deny Christ. But for the Christian, death brings us into the presence of our Savior God. It brings us before the God into whose name we have been baptized. And we are at perfect peace.

This salvation is found only in Christ. Because of that, our church body as well as many others send missionaries to every part of the globe. And not only that, but send each member there at home to go and tell. It is the Church's privilege and joyous-duty to bear witness to her Savior, the risen Lord – Jesus Christ, Victor.

Christ is the victor! Those words bring peace to the dying and to the mourning both. They assure us that we do not merely perish as the beasts of the field. They promise us that death will not have the final say, but, rather, that even death will be defeated when Christ returns to judge the world and to gather His own. As they sing here in one of their worship songs: Jehovah has the final say!

Speak Christ! Witness to His victory! Let all the world join us in His praise! Amen.



The family reads their testimonies.



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Pray for our team here in West Africa. In Ghana: Rev/Mrs. David Erber, Rev/Mrs. Steven Schumacher, In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker, Rev. Jacob Gaugert, In Sierra Leone: Rev/Mrs. Mark Moss, Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson, In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte, Rev. Fred Reinhardt, Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermott, Molly Christianson.
- Pray for Pastor Konbat's surgery and healing.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the Small Catechism work.
- Ask God to give Dale the ability to teach Christ in all the classes.
- Pray for Dennis, Dale's brother, still battling kidney stones.

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."

Update on Our Small Catechism Translation

The work on our Dagbani language Small Catechism is going very nicely. So far, we have translated the first six commandments and their meanings. We have had them read over by Pastor Konbat, and he has given us some valuable feedback about the translation. We also read through them with my two guards who gave us much encouragement. We are looking forward to finishing the Ten Commandments and getting on to The Apostles' Creed.



The Small Catechism being read by the locals.

Pastor Konbat Update

After a third surgery in which they removed the hardware from Pastor's leg, it has been determined that it was done too soon. He is, therefore, going to have a fourth surgery this weekend to place some hardware back in as well as to clean up some fibrous growths in his bones. Please, pray for his surgery as well as for a speedy recovery. He is supposed to go training with Dale later this year, but it is all questionable right now whether or not he will be able to accompany Dale.

Lots of Preparations

Please, keep in your prayers all the preparations that need to be accomplished. We are preparing for a meeting on June 8th with the pastors who help us with training in each of the villages. There is also a lot of preparations for Dale as he prepares to teach Greek at the seminary in Sasaabi. While reading Greek is one thing, teaching it is altogether another thing! Also, we are readying the classes to be taught in the villages from August to October. Dale will be teaching New Testament Survey and Biblical Interpretation.

Expensify

One of the mundane things that used to eat up a lot of our time was a monthly expense report. In the former system, we had to fill out an Excel spreadsheet and do a bunch of scanning. But Expensify has come to our rescue! Those of you who use this program know that it rescues you from those long days of report preparations. Thanks to the folks at Synod who have helped us out as well as to Joyce Erber, our business manager for Africa.

Blessed Pentecost to You!

This coming Sunday brings us the gift we so desperately need, the Holy Spirit and His work within us. We pray that this precious gift would empower us all – in whatever mission field the Lord has placed you! – to bear witness to the only Lord, the only solution to death, Jesus Christ. For no matter where we are there are people who need to hear the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

We commend you to the risen 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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