

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



First year students on their first day in Greek

Training in the Word of Truth

St. Paul, in his second letter to young Pastor Timothy, encourages him with these words: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.* (2 Tim. 2:15) Pastors need to be trained. In the original Greek of the text, the word for “approved” is *dokimos* (δόκιμος), it means to be approved after testing. So, it is that we are here to help the men of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) pass through the time of training so that they too may be approved for ministry.

We train so that the ELCG would have more and more men who can be “rightly handling the word of truth.” There are plenty of preachers here in Ghana. Some promise prosperity, if they just make a donation of the right size. (One in Accra last week told people that a \$5,000 donation would make them millionaires.) Others preach a Jesus other than the Word of God proclaims, Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. And others lay the burden of charismatic manifestations on people as proof that they are true believers. None of these are examples of rightly handling the word of truth. At the seminary, I heard this aphorism: If the preacher had not preached Christ crucified, he had not preached. So much of what passes for preaching throughout our world today doesn’t pass that test. In fact, I can’t even say I have been without sin in regard to this truth!

It is the goal of our LCMS work in Ghana, indeed, throughout all of West Africa, to help this “word of truth” to be proclaimed here among those who so desperately need it. We began the current year’s training cycle giving to the first-year students the wonderful skill of reading New Testament Greek. I am scheduled to return for further Greek instruction in November and January. And now, we are preparing to visit the four villages in which we train to teach Survey of the New Testament and Biblical Interpretation. These courses seek to teach future pastors how rightly to handle the word of truth. They seek to encourage men to preach Christ, and Him crucified, as the Apostle Paul exhorted. (I Corinthians 1:22-23) And, ultimately, to feed the flock of the ELCG by strengthening these men who are already leading preaching stations scattered throughout the NE of Ghana.

In our prayers here, we pray for all of you in the United States, that faithful ministry would be done by all church workers among all of you. So, be fed! Don’t make excuses to avoid Bible Study. And don’t roll over on Sunday mornings. Remember, the Lord has provided you with a well-trained, faithful-to-Christ pastor, DCE, deaconess, deacon, etc. They are gifts from the Savior who loves you so! He wants that word of truth to take residence in your heart so that the next time Satan whispers his smiling-lies to you that you take refuge in the Word of God, incarnate and written!



Suzanne poses with our Greek students. In fact, she joined the class herself!



Thanks for Supporting Us!

Something new for us in this edition is to thank a few of our supporting congregations by name each month. (Keep an eye out for your church in the coming editions!)

- Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Sarasota, FL.
- Christ the Redeemer Lutheran, Tulsa, OK.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Freemont, NE.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Please pray for:

- The people of Tamale who were displaced by flood waters.
- That our Greek students will keep up their studies until we return.
- For the students to be taught in the villages.
- For our strength of body and spirit as we go through a very busy period.

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

30 Years of Marriage!

We were able to slip away for three days as we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary (July 11) this year. We went to a lodge, in Mole Park. It is a beautiful setting and has wonderful amenities. But we knew we were still in West Africa. We didn't have hot water for two of the three days. They ran out of the ingredients for Suzanne's cocktail. And Suzanne came home covered in bed bug bites. We did have a good time and enjoyed the setting immensely. Maybe for our 35th we'll try Germany!



Flooding in Tamale

While we were at the seminary, Tamale experienced such hard rains that parts of the city flooded. It was so bad that a lady's car was swept away in the torrent and she drowned. In total, three or four people died. Our guard told us that the water built up inside of our compound, so much so that they had to punch a drain hole in our enclosure wall. In the picture at the right, you can see the water level on our bedroom walls and even a part of the enclosure wall in the back of the picture. We learned on Sunday that all the members of the church here are fine and we pray for those still recovering.



Small Catechism Update

It was our intention to use a widely-used translation of The Apostles' Creed for our work on The Small Catechism, in order to confess the unity of the faith. After looking at the only two versions we could find, we gave up the hope of not needing to translate it. So, we spent several weeks in order to produce a very faithful translation of what we find in our Lutheran Service Book. We have finished it and offer you this little taste of it.

N-niŋ ti Ba Naawuni Zallakudura naa yɛda,
ŋun-nam zuysaa mini duniya ɲɔ.

I do believe in our Father, God Almighty, chief,
who-made this heaven and earth.

God bless your confess of Him – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

We commend you to the Word made flesh,
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.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/kastersinghana - no FB membership needed!