

## *The Glories of God in Ghana*

*Psalm 87*

News from the Kusters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

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*Blessing of the church in Uchado*

### ***Christ, At Work within His Servants***

It has been a full month here in February. We have gone from blessing a repaired church, to hosting the pastors from our training areas for a planning meeting, to hosting Dan McMiller from Office of International Missions and taking him to greet our local chief, as well as to baptizing a newly born baby girl. On top of all that, we have prepared and printed our next round-of-training's books and are busy making sure we are ready to start traveling again. And we have continued our work on translating the Small Catechism into Dagbanli. It hasn't been a quiet month!

It is a humbling thing to serve on the mission field. It has taught us some lessons with which we will always live. Chief among them: it's not about you, but it is Christ working through you. We knew this. We confessed this. We have taught this over the years. But when you are pulled between such dissimilar activities, it becomes less of a doctrine you teach and becomes more of a prayer you pray. You pray it, because you are keenly aware that without the help of Christ you will mess this whole thing up!

This is not only true for missionaries, but it is so true for all who walk the path of following Christ as Lord. That walk requires that the Master not only show the way but also that He lead us on the way step by step. Such is the way for all who would be Jesus' disciples.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his little book on the Psalms and prayer, wrote: *"Lord, teach us to pray!" So spoke the disciples to Jesus. In making this request, they confessed that they were not able to pray on their own, that they had to learn to pray ... Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty. No man can do that by himself. For that he needs Jesus Christ.* If it is true that we cannot even pray without the Lord's help, then imagine how much we need Him as we go about our lives. The ancient prayer of the Church is the simple sentence: *Come, Lord Jesus!* (Revelation 22:20) And this does not spring merely from our eschatological hope but from our daily lives.

One of our favorite prayers of the Church is a prayer in the Order of Compline. It begs, "abide with us" over and over again. It asks Jesus to abide with us in the evening, with our work, and even in our death. It entreats Him to be with us "now and forever." Such a prayer is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. For the Christian knows that to go on his own strength is a recipe for disaster and destruction. But to go with Christ, to travel in His footsteps, to walk the way of the cross, is the way of true strength. As St. Paul instructs us: *For when I am weak, then I am strong.* (2 Cor. 12:10 ESV) Follow the Master!



*Chief of Zagyuri, the chieftaincy in which we live*



## Praise God For:

The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us, and support us.

This month we specifically thank:

- Bethlehem Lutheran, Jacksonville Beach, FL
- Redeemer Lutheran, Lincoln, NE
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Yucca Valley, CA

Thank you for your prayers and support!

## Please pray for:

- Our teaching this month and through May.
- For the work of the seminaries in Accra and in Dapaong, Togo.
- The ELCG as it elects new church leaders.
- The work of the OIM as it serves missionaries around the globe.
- Our church here, as we seek to serve the Lord.

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 to Our Training – Consolidated into Three

We thank and praise the Lord for a very successful meeting this month with the area pastors. We were able to trim the number of training areas from 4 to 3. We did this because two of our training sites share a common language, and they have both trimmed the number of students, focusing on those who are handling the materials. This will save us four weeks of training per year and a great deal of housing money.

## Election of New Leaders for the Local Church

March 15-17 are important dates here in Ghana. Having approved a new constitution last month, they will be gathering to elect new officers for the national church. Please pray for the ELCG as it strives to move forward in ministry and outreach as well as in their academic training.

## Classes Begin Next Week!

Our first training is stretched over two separate weeks in Bunkpurugu (March 5-9 and 19-23). We will be teaching Doctrine I and II, Christian Education, and The Book of Jonah. Our classes will have to take a break for delegates to go to the election of a new bishop here in Ghana.

## Baptism

Our congregation here welcomed a newly-born girl into the body of Christ through Holy Baptism. Wassennin Yatan-Laar was buried with Christ and raised to new life in those blessed waters of rebirth and renewal.



## Visitor from St. Louis

Rev. Dan McMiller is the Associate Executive Director of the Office of International Mission (OIM) in St. Louis. This month he logged a lot of miles visiting our missionaries in Sierra Leone; Accra, Ghana; here in Tamale; as well as with our French-speaking missionaries in Togo and Burkina Faso. It was great to have him all to ourselves for three days. He was a source of encouragement and challenged us in our service here. We pray God to bless his work back at the International Center.

God bless you all in your Lenten journey and meditation!

We commend you to our Lenten Lord!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

*Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa*

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