

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Pastor Konbat (l) and Dale with our training group in Bawku

Christ in Us and Christ in You

The Sixth Week of Easter brings us to that now-overlooked celebration of our Lord's ascension. (This year it is marked on May 10.) I confess, I have made quite a journey with this feast day – from confusion to confession. As a child, I remember my parents faithfully taking me to evening services every year on that day. Even into my teen years, it was something that was done because ... well, because we always had done it! But behind my confusion for this feast was the nagging sense that it didn't seem like such a thing to celebrate. Why would we celebrate Jesus' leaving us? We are left here, and He goes to heaven?

I suppose that part of my problem was rooted in those times my U.S. Airforce father went to southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He was gone, and I know we all missed him so much. Celebrating Ascension Day seemed for me like celebrating my father's plane pulling away from the jet ramp. Why would we celebrate that? We need and want him right here!

But the Lord Himself set me, or should I say "us," straight on this topic. In the Upper Room, with the disciples' heads all swimmy over His announcement that He was going away, our Lord says: *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.* (Jn. 16:7 ESV) It is "to our advantage" that He goes! For in going, He sends the Holy Spirit to help us. And help us He does! The Holy Spirit creates faith in us, works the fruits of faith in us, emboldens us as witnesses to Christ, and gives us the assurance that we are the people of Christ, His Church. The Holy Spirit is essential to our faith and our life in the Church. And in Christ's going, He sends Him to us.

But still, what is gained for us in Christ ascending to the Father's right hand? And, again, the Scriptures give us the answer. St. Paul writes in Ephesians: *He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things ... And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ* (Eph. 4:10-12 ESV) Christ, at the right hand of the Father, fills all things for His Church! It is not that he is away from us; rather, the opposite is true. Christ has ascended to the Father's right hand so that He might be with the Church wherever it is found. There, where you are, and here, where we are, the same Christ gives His gifts to His Church and we are the richer for it. For by those gifts, He makes Himself known to us.

And so, the work of making Christ known continues for the Church wherever it is found. The risen and ascended Lord gives His life into the Church through Word and Sacrament. And we are blessed to know that the ascended Lord is not "away from us," but is very much with us wherever we go to impart His grace to all who hear the Gospel and believe. So, Ascension Day is indeed a good day! It is the day when we receive this revelation: *Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (Col. 1:27 ESV)

A blessed Ascension Day to you all!





Praise God For:

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

This month we specifically thank:

- Lord of Life Lutheran, Elkhorn, NE
- St. Mark LWML, Benson, MI
- Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, OK

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Please pray for:

- Our two-week training in Gbintiri, that all would be to Christ's glory.
- Our Area Director and his wife, Gary and Stephanie Schulte, that God would protect them in their travels.
- Our home service, that we would be able to schedule all our visits.
- Our travels, that we may be kept safe on the roads.

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."

Two Trainings Done, One More to Go!

In March, we trained our brothers in the Bimoba town of Bunkpurugu. And now in the month of April, we took the training to the Kusaasi town of Bawku. This Sunday, May 6, we will be heading to the Komba/Konkomba training that will be done for two weeks in the village of Gbintiri. That will bring our early 2018 to an end. It has been very successful so far; however, it is very tiring to train during these extremely hot months of March-May. But already the weather seems to be turning towards the rainy/cooler season. So, it is our hope that the weather might give us some needed relief soon.

As we mentioned last month, there are changes happening here in Ghana that are already affecting our work. We are seeking God to make clear to us how we are to serve Him and the Gospel. Please, pray for God to lead us.



Peaching at Rev. John Tuatil's Funeral

On Saturday, April 7, I preached in the village of Jillig at the funeral for a dear pastor, Rev. John Tuatil. This was a large funeral of 400-500 people. Pastor Tuatil was a kind man of God, a true brother in Christ. It is our prayer that those who did not know Jesus were brought, through the Word preached, to know Jesus as Savior.

Good News from Our Savior's Way, Ashburn, VA

Recently, we applied for a grant that was offered by one of our supporting congregations – Our Savior's Way, Ashburn, VA. We proposed a plan to renovate our current worship structure – which was and still looks like a warehouse – to give it a more open, airy, and inviting appearance. We were so blessed to hear from one of their pastors that we have been approved for the grant. Hopefully, there will soon be some great changes we can show here!

Change in Plans

Because of the great cost of flying to the States, especially during the vacation season, it was decided not to attend the upcoming English District Convention in June. Sorry for our changes, but we still will be praying for the gathering.

Home Service

We will be home in October through mid-January for our home service, which reconnects to our family and allows us to raise funds. We are just now beginning to schedule our visits. If your church or ministry would like a visit from us, just email us and let us know.

We pray that the risen and ascended Lord pour His grace out on you!

We commend you to our 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.

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