

# *The Glories of God in Ghana*

## *Psalm 87*

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

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### ***Following God's Call: Prague***

The work of a missionary is always one of seeking to follow God's call. That seeking is done even on a day-by-day basis as you seek to answer the need of people to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Where you can bring Jesus is where you go. For the last four years, that has brought us to the northern part of Ghana. We have proclaimed Christ to people, and we have endeavored to encourage others to proclaim Him, because the mission work of the church is not done merely by guys who wear collars. The mission work of the Church is done by all who share St. Thomas's confession of Jesus Christ: *"My Lord and my God!"* (Jn. 20:28) Speaking those words before the world is the essence of missions.

Over these four years here in Ghana, we have encouraged this public confession of our members and of our students, men who are seeking the pastoral office. But what has become increasingly clear to us is that an African voice needs to take up that encouragement. Our training and teaching have been good and have been faithful, but because we spend so little time in one place – always moving between Tamale, Bawku, Bunkpurugu, Gbintiri, and, until just recently, Bakpaba – we have not been as effective as we would like. The men who train to be pastors receive from us only four weeks of training per year, because we must be in other places and because the lives of the men require them to be busy with farms and other social obligations. We have tried. We have tried very hard. But we feel that it best to leave this training in the hands of indigenous pastors who speak their language and their culture, and who will be able to meet more regularly and more often. And now is a good time as a new president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana is taking over, along with a new organizational structure.

So, where are we going from here? We are heading to serve the Lord in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. There Dale will be serving an English-speaking congregation at St. Michael the Archangel Lutheran Church and will serve as the mentor to an English-fluent Czech-national who is studying to be a pastor. In other words, we will be doing a lot of what we have been doing – pastoring a congregation and teaching theology – just in one place at this time and in a different language and culture. However, we will also be hitting the road to provide chaplaincy to our missionaries serving in the eastern Czech Republic; therefore, there won't be any grass growing underneath our feet!

We are sad to say goodbye to the friends we have made in Ghana. But we leave behind some great gifts: a rich theology taught to the best of our ability, a Small Catechism in the Dagbani language (a witness to the 90% Muslim community), and a rejuvenated congregation, with a worship structure that is being renovated even as we write this to you. And we have asked the President-elect to quickly send a new seminary graduate to serve the congregation in Tamale, which he is very willing to do. We have done what we can do; now it is time for the local church to take what is handed on and build on it.

Please, pray for our move, our change of culture and language, and our new service that lies before us. We are excited to see where the Lord leads and to whom He has sent us ... just as He has led you!



## Praise God For:

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

This month we specifically thank:

- Gethsemane Dorcas Guild, Northglenn, CO
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Fremont, NE
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Pt. Pleasant, NJ

Thank you for your prayers and support!

### Please pray for:

- For the Ghanaian Lutheran Church, that it would continue what we have begun.
- For our moving and settling in in Prague.
- Our home service, that we would be able to schedule all our visits.

### Don't Write!

We have *loved* receiving your many notes of encouragement. But the time it takes the mail to get here will forbid us from receiving it. Watch this place for our new address in Prague!

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."

## Church Refurbishing

We mentioned last month that we were blessed to receive a ministry grant from one of our supporting congregations, Our Savior's Way in Ashburn, VA. As this newsletter is being written, this (see picture) is what is happening to our little building. The changes will bring more light and fresh air to the building; and once we get it painted, we will stand out to those who have passed our old warehouse and never realized a church was there. We thank and praise God for this loving gift from the States!



## Dagbani Translation of The Small Catechism

We have finished the initial translation of The Small Catechism and are in the review process. As we review, we seek to make the language as plain as can be, so that even a little child can hear it and understand it. Lazarus, our Dagomba translator, has been handing out portions of the work, including the Second Article of The Apostle's Creed. Many of the people we are asking for grammar checks are Muslims who are hearing the Gospel of Christ for the first time. We pray God to bless their reading of this gem of the Reformation: Lord, have mercy!

## Training Cycle Is Completed!

We recently finished our latest training by visiting the village of Gbintiri. Between there and the other two villages, we trained 23 men on the doctrines of creation, God the Father, Law and Gospel, the person and work of Jesus Christ, salvation by grace through faith, among other doctrines. We also taught Jonah and Christian Education. We thank God for giving us the strength to accomplish this work – even though Dale was sick for one of the weeks.

## Home Service – September through December

We are working on filling our calendar for our visits to congregations and ministries. If you would like to hear about what we have done and where we are going, then drop by and see us. So far, we have confirmed these visits.

- September 6<sup>th</sup>-Christ the Redeemer Lutheran, Tulsa, OK
- September 16<sup>th</sup>-Celebration Lutheran, Jacksonville, FL
- October 8<sup>th</sup>-Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa
- October 9<sup>th</sup>-Zion Lutheran, Dexter, Iowa
- October 28<sup>th</sup>-Grace Lutheran, Jacksonville, FL

No matter where we are – here now or where we are going – the task of our work is to make Christ known. And we pray that God will help us all to do that. We have so much to tell! God has shown His love to us so richly, and it is that faith that we pass on to the next believers. God bless all of our witness!

We commend you to our Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

*Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa...and beyond*

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