

THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



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The ELCG's Foundation Course for Deaconesses



Luther by Lucas Cranach 1472-1553

WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

"We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testament alone, as it is written, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105), and St. Paul: "If an angel from heaven should proclaim to you something contrary.... let that one be accursed!" (Gal. 1:8) Other writings of ancient or contemporary teacher, whatever their names may be, shall not be regarded as equal to Holy Scripture, but all of them together shall be subjected to it, and not be accepted in any other way, or with any further authority, than as witness of how and where the teachings of the prophets and apostles were preserved after the time of the apostles."

Formula of Concord Introduction, 1-2



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Photo by: J. Steward

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) and their hosts, the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ghana.

In September the seminary hosted 40 ladies from many regions of Ghana for the *Foundation Course: The Lutheran Deaconess*. Deaconess Dr. Cynthia Lumley, Principal of Westfield House of Theological Studies, Cambridge, UK, was the instructor. Rev. Daniel Akoh, a regional ELCG pastor, was the pastoral advisor.

The course was designed to help the participants gain a common understanding of the office and work of the Lutheran deaconess, from a well-grounded, Biblical perspective. The students began to appreciate the identity of a Lutheran deaconess by focusing on Christian identity, confessional Lutheran identity, female identity, and diaconal identity.

It was very interesting to listen to the comments of these women who came to learn so they can return home to teach God's Word to the faithful women and children in their churches. One lady from the far northern region of Ghana was traveling to Accra for her first time. She stated

she was so nervous to the point of being ill, yet desires to be a deaconess so she can help women who are suffering. One young woman thought a deaconess was the same as a pastor, she said, "I learned it is not about preaching, but about serving others. It is about supporting the pastor and helping the church as a whole."

Alberta, from Takoradi, wants to continue the prison ministry she and her husband began in youth group. Elizabeth, from the Northern Region, uses Bible study to teach women in her area how to read. Every Wednesday evening women of all ages gather at her church to read the Bible, to hear God's Word translated into their local language of Dagbani or Bimoba and to learn to read from the Scriptures. Many of the husbands of these ladies practice traditional African religions and are not Christian. Elizabeth is frequently asked to go and talk to their husbands, so they will grant them permission to attend Sunday Lutheran worship services.



Photo by: C. Schumacher

Dr. Lumley and Rita Dohawani

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The ELCG, President Donkoh, and Deaconess Dr. Lumley as they plan the future deaconess training.

The seminary students as they travel to the seminary for the final term of 2019.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our continued good health allowing us to teach and serve as missionaries.

The peace in our country of Ghana and our safety as we live in a growing village.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

This month we give praise for:

*Grace Lutheran LWML
La Mars, IA*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
Wahpeton, ND*

*Faith Lutheran Middle School
and High School
Las Vegas, NV*

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ghana hosts Deaconess training



Photos by C. Schumacher

Deaconess Dr. Cynthia Lumley instructing the women of the ELCG.

The top left (sidebar) photo is Dr. Lumley and Rita, the beautiful wife of one of our seminarians. Rita is the mother of Sarah 4 years, and a son, Bright 2 years old. Rita teaches the nursery class at Faith Lutheran School along with caring for their children while Paul is away for three terms of studies at the seminary each year. This year will be a little easier for her as Paul is now serving his vicarage in their local area. Rita, new to Lutheran doctrine, is learning much from their pastor, her husband, and this deaconess training. Rita's first language is Mubusi, but is also fluent in speaking and reading English. She wants to be a deaconess so she can help the many uneducated women in their church and local community.



The ladies gathered with the seminarians three times a day for devotions and worship.

Cynthia and I thank you for your time in reading our monthly newsletter. We thank God, for you and pray that you would, prayerfully, consider praying for us and, if possible, support us through a financial gift.

May God bless you and your service to Him,

- Rev. Dr. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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