

THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



February 2020

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The Sower (Le semeur), 1886-1894 by James Tissot

THE SOWER

“A sower went out to sow his seed.” Luke 8:5a

Jesus describes God's kingdom and His plan of salvation for man in the parable of the Sower. He teaches God's Word always has the power to touch the hearts of people and create repentance and faith. God's grace is given as an invitation and is not forced. We cannot earn God's favor by our works but we can always reject His gracious gift. When a person's heart refuses the Gospel, he will not hear His Word because of sinful pride; which is the seed falling on the road. When a person receives the Gospel but later rejects it because his faith is not strong during life's troubles and temptations; this is like the seed that falls on the rock. When a person receives the Gospel but very soon allows work, school, family, or money to become more important; this is shown in the seed falling among the thorns. It is wonderful to be like the good soil, a person joyfully receives the Holy Spirit and His work of creating and strengthening faith. Living and growing in God's Word leads a person to serve God and others.



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Lutheran Worship at House of Grace School for the Deaf



Photo by: C. Schumacher

House of Grace deaf students following worship on Feb 16, 2020, along with Rev. Dr. S.R. Schumacher and deaf teacher Issifu.

We traveled to Aplaku on Sunday, February 16, to lead worship for the students at House of Grace. The trip is about forty miles one way, because of traffic even on Sunday morning, it takes us about one hour and forty-five minutes. The road into Accra is paved and mostly smooth, but filled with people and vehicles traveling to their places of worship. It is wonderful to see people dressed in their finest clothing going to church. The dirt road up a small mountain to the school is ridden with large rocks and washed out gully's. A treacherous adventure for sure.

What a joy for me to lead signed worship with this very faithful young Christian group. They worship in a classroom of their school, with plastic chairs and a new small lectern. The Service of Prayer and Preaching was introduced this past year and these young people love signing/singing the Old Testament Canticle: “*The Lord God is my strength and my song and*

He has become by salvation. . . . Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted.”

The students, in the past, signed songs they found in old Sunday School materials. To assist them, we have translated songs and put them into a binder so they now have a variety of songs to practice for their choir or individually sign with the students following their lead.

These students are blessed to come from families that view their deaf children as worthy of an education, and many come from families that can afford the school fees for this private school. House of Grace was started by a Finnish Lutheran lady named Hannah who lived in Accra, and had a dream to start a school to provide quality education for the deaf in the Accra area. She requested that the ELCG assist by providing catechesis and worship.



Photo by: C. Schumacher

Joseph the son of one of the deaf worshippers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, President Donkoh, and the Seminary Board of Directors as they support pastoral formation at their seminary.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

Successful surgery for Patrick our driver and night guard .

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

This month we give praise for:

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fort Wayne, IN

Immanuel Lutheran Church Greenfield, IA

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Bellevue, NE

Worship and Fellowship Time



Photos by: C. Schumacher



Rev. Schumacher signing the sermon (above); a deaf student leading a signed song (top right); the deaf students signing the Service of Prayer and Preaching (right); fellowship time (right bottom).



Following worship, a drink and a small package of biscuits is shared with all in attendance through generous donations. During this time I have the opportunity to meet new students and to visit with students such as Samuel. Samuel has been coming to worship faithfully for the past five and one-half years that we have been going to House of Grace.



We give thanks for these young people to travel by public transportation and/or walk to worship their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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."

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Schumacher/Ghana." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/schumacher.