

THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



May-June 2020

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Reaching out with the Gospel



Pentecost by Anthony van Dyck 1618-1620

PENTECOST

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house. . . And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:1-2, 4 (ESV)

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise and the prophecy of Joel. The people were gathered in one place celebrating the holy festival, The Feast of Weeks; and as they were gathered in Jerusalem, tongues of fire descended on the disciples emboldening them to preach the Gospel so the hearers from all over the Mediterranean Region were able to understand in their own dialects the saving message of Jesus Christ crucified for the salvation of all mankind. Through God the Holy Spirit, people heard this Gospel saving message, were baptized, and received the free gift of faith. The Christian church thus began and the Gospel message through them would begin to be shared in all the world.



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Young men from the villages of Saasabi and Dodowa with Rev. Dr. Schumacher and Patrick Sarfo.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary Ghana is located in the village of Saasabi, which is about 30 kilometers north-northeast of Accra. Our missionary house is located in the south-east corner of the seminary compound. We have been blessed for the past almost six years to know Patrick Sarfo. He lives in the boy's quarters on our compound and serves as our night guard and driver.

Patrick's passion in life is to mentor teenage boys, especially the "street boys." He wants to reach them with the love of Jesus and show them that people do care about them. Many boys leave home at a young age because their families can no longer provide support. When these boys are no longer attending school they are prone to join together and turn to illegal activities to be able to buy food and needed items. This is when Patrick steps in and helps to provide for them and give them a purpose for living.

In the above photo, 20 of the boys joined for an afternoon of spiritual mentoring, food, and fun. These boys come often to visit Patrick and we have come to know many of them and offer spiritual guidance.

Through various "connections" Patrick assists as many of the boys as possible in finding work that will, hopefully, become a career for them. One young man is an apprentice to an auto mechanic in Dodowa and is quickly learning a much needed trade that will provide for him to support himself. Another is in a technical high school learning to be an electrician while two others are now apprentices to a seasoned electrician.

We are comforted to know even in the absence of the seminary students, my wife, and I; that Patrick will continue to be in the village to be a mentor to these young men while also reaching out with the Gospel.

Update for Ghana & the Seminary



Photo by: C. Schumacher

Donald, in Sunday School at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All missionaries, national and international, as they share the Pentecost message to repent and believe.

The LC-MS and ELCG churches as they witness the message that Jesus Christ died for all people.

All those suffering with the CoVid-19 virus that God would grant healing according to His mercy.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our time to visit family and receive medical care.

Mission Central, Old Missionary Gary, Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, and all the people who work together to support and share in the mission of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

This month we give praise for:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Gretna, NE

St. John Lutheran LWML
Chester, IL

First English Lutheran Church
Spencer, IA



The vegetable gardens on the Seminary grounds (top left), the master gardener's family (top right).



The seminary compound has a new "caretaker." Nathaniel, his wife Bless, and daughter, Josephine, have moved into the boy's quarters of the West Missionary House. Nathaniel has developed a small "farm" or vegetable garden. In America we would call him a master gardener. He assists in taking care of the seminary grounds and his garden will provide some vegetables for his small family and the seminary. Nathaniel desires to attend the seminary with the next incoming class, and his wife, Bless, will serve as the seminary cook.

While Nathaniel and Patrick take care of the seminary compound, the CoVid-19 virus continues to spread. On May 31, Ghana confirmed over 10,000 CoVid-19 cases, resulting in President

Akufo-Addo extending the closure of Ghana's borders (land, air, and sea) to human traffic until further notice. All schools are closed, but in July the students who are in their last term of studies, for their class level, will be able to attend classes with restrictions to complete their course of studies and take their final exams.

Stage one, of the reopening plan, has begun which allows churches to begin services with these restrictions: churches must be disinfected and fumigated; an abridged format of services can commence with a maximum duration of one hour; 25% attendance with a maximum of 100; mandatory wearing of masks; hand washing and sanitizers provided; must provide toilets (with regular cleaning); no hugging, hand shaking or spitting; no group singing, dancing, or waving of handkerchiefs; and separate sitting for those who are "fairly old."

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. Dr. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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.