



The Mission Grows

On the right is a map of sub-Saharan Africa, with the tiny nation of Burundi highlighted. I was supposed to be in Burundi a few weeks ago, but the trip was postponed due to security and health considerations. Burundi remains on a Level Four travel advisory from the U.S. State Department (their highest level), but with the political situation improving and the pandemic winding down, we are optimistic that I will be able to add Burundi to my summer deployment. I'm looking forward to teaching there.



Indeed, we have every expectation that the singing of Lutheran music in anglophone Africa will flourish as it has in francophone Africa. They share with us the same Lord, the same faith, the same Baptism. With their fellow Africans, they also share the same challenge. While the *LSB* is a great source hymnal for them, they too will need a smaller, less expensive edition that will have chords for amateur keyboardists and guitarists, a focused selection of core hymns, and canticles that better fit their local contexts.

Meanwhile, since I missed my usual winter deployment, I am making up for it by going to Ghana for a couple of special workshops. Ghana, you might ask? Don't they speak English there? Yes, to both questions. While my special focus has been and continues to be on francophone Africa mission, we all go where we are needed and so I am happy there is a great desire to learn Lutheran hymnody and liturgy in Ghana as well. It will be a bit different teaching Africans in English rather than in French, but I think I'll manage. They are introducing our *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* there, so I will be working with leaders on teaching techniques and inculturation strategies. Just like many of our great hymns have taken root in francophone African soil, we hope they will do the same in Ghana.

So I'm pleased to share that LHF—Africa has asked me to chair an "African Edition" project for the *LSB* just as I have led such a mission edition for the *LCL*. LHF—Africa sees both these mission editions then becoming the basis for further work, as Lutheran hymnals in the local languages are developed in the coming years. In this way, our churches will sing the same song, though in many tongues.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our brothers and sisters at *Paroisse Wittenberg in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo*, that they may obtain a new roof for their church.
- The seminaries in Togo, Congo and Guinea, as they work to make up for time lost during the pandemic.
- Safe travel during my upcoming deployment to Ghana.
- Continued progress on the African Edition of our French hymnal, and that LHF—Africa negotiates good contracts with local printers for these hymnal projects.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- My wife, Cheryl, who is a constant blessing to me and our dear children in all things, including being a champion and advocate for this ministry. I could not be making all these trips to Africa without her support.
- My fellow missionaries on our Africa team. They have planted many seeds, and continue to nurture many pastors, deaconesses, vicars, and lay leaders with their faithful preaching, teaching, and works of mercy. I am honored to be in team ministry with them.

On to Vicarage



Some of you who might remember this melodious brother in Christ, Mawule Tovihoudji. He was one of my top students at CLET (Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques) in Dapaong, Togo, and also one of the song leaders at the chapel there. He is a dear Christian brother, seen here singing quite boldly.

I am pleased to report that he and several classmates are now off to vicarages in their respective countries. Mawule will serve a parish near Lomé, Togo. Others are headed to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. I always enjoy seeing former students return to their own countries and look forward to seeing them serve those countries as pastors when I visit.



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 Phillip Magness you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to "Mission Central." Mark checks "Support of Phillip Magness." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/Magness. Thank you very much for your support! SOLI DEO GLORIA.