

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalms 87

News from the Kastors, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Dale Thanking Bishop Fynn

Busy, Busy, Busy!

I stepped off the plane in Accra on February 10th into the all-embracing warmth of Ghana in its hot/dry season. Making it through customs and immigration, I was immediately whisked off to a seminary board meeting. After that, I had a chance to meet with Bishop Fynn, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana. Finally, as I made my way out to the seminary itself, I was welcomed by our newest members of our West Africa team, Rev. Doug and Angie Thompson. It was a full, full day. But in true Ghana style, there was more to come. I preached on Saturday at the seminary and I was invited to be a part of Sunday's service at the bishop's church, followed by a luncheon.

Arriving back in the north, it too has been a hit-the-ground-running sort of situation. There were members of our congregation with which to reconnect. There were errands to run – picking up mail, paying past due accounts, and getting food and staples back into our home. And it is Lent, with its extra “midweek” service, which we hold on Fridays because some of our leaders travel throughout the work week. On top of that, I am trying to figure out how to get our training started again. Each one of our four areas seems to have a new challenge since I last left. It all has been overwhelming at times.

I confess, sometimes I tackle my problems with a “eat the whole pie in one bite” sort of way. But that only adds the additional problem of unneeded and unnecessary stress. So I have been trying to stop, to pray, and to remember that once upon a time all this had to be done before when I came the first time; and if God got us through it then, then why should I doubt that He will see us through this again?

This newsletter serves two purposes: information and intercession. I want to make known to you the things that are happening here, so that you will be informed about God's work, to keep you who have partnered with us informed. But I also ask of you intercession, to pray with us and for us so that the challenges that meet us are brought before our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit would help us through all these challenges, that He would bless the preaching and teaching, and that through our humble service many might be brought to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from all sin.

But I also want you to know that I have been received into another all-embracing warmth here. It is the all-embracing warmth of the love of God through His saints. Whether it is the saints of the south or the north, it is the same love that God gives. He to us, and through us to one another. No one here has said, “Work harder!” In fact, from the Bishop's lips often come the words, “Don't work too hard.” And from the chairman of our Tamale congregation has come repeated calls for me to take it easy. It is good to be back!



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God that He has brought us back to do His work in Ghana.
- Pray for the McDermott and Schulte families, raising funds for their work in West Africa.
- Pray for our team here in Ghana – Rev. and Mrs. David Erber, Rev. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, and Rev. and Mrs. Doug Thompson as well as Rev. and Mrs. Mark Moss.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the work being done by our co-workers in Togo: Rev. Gaugert, Rev. and Mrs. Wildauer.
- Ask God to help us restart the training process and for strong leaders in each locale.
- Pray for Pastor Konbat's healing.
- Ask God to bless our Tamale congregation with a spirit of outreach.

You can write us at:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
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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. Click on "Service Opportunities."



A New Floor!

The saints at All Nations Lutheran Church, Tamale, put their hearts and their wallets into laying a new floor in the building in which we worship. The previous floor was mostly dust, preventing us from wearing our albs since their hems would turn black. So they raised

the money themselves, brought in masonry workers, and surprised me with the new floor. Already the amount of dust has been greatly reduced.

Suzanne's Return

As many of you have heard, Suzanne stayed behind to help her mother who had been hospitalized and then put in residential physical therapy. Thank you for the prayers offered on her behalf! Suzanne's mom is home and doing much better. Suzanne is helping her with follow-up doctors' visits. But she already is booked to return to Ghana on the morning of March 9th. Please pray for our safety as I will be traveling to Accra to meet her and to meet with our missionaries in Accra.

Pastor Konbat Update

I was able to help Pr. Konbat with a doctor's visit on Monday. The doctor had him x-rayed and was pleased with the way the bones are healing. We give thanks that he is getting better, as they say here, "little, little."

Making Contacts with Muslims

One of my guards, my neighbor, my tailor, my auto-mechanic, and several merchants I deal with are all Muslim. People often ask about Muslim/Christian relations. I have always maintained that there is a very friendly relationship here. Upon my return, all those Muslims I mentioned have welcomed me with open arms. Of course, I want them all to be Christians. But you have to go carefully. It's best not to tell them, "Hey, you're lost in sin! But I am here to save you!" Instead, it is those relationships and signs of caring that speak best. I have invited my guard to church. He merely laughs ... for now. But I am not going to give up on him or anyone else. Ask God to help us here in this 80% Muslim community, that we might be the aroma of life to them. (II Corinthians 2:15)

Looking ahead, we, like you, have Holy Week services and the great celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Also, at the end of April and early May, we will be going to the All-Africa Retreat in Watamu, Kenya, on the Indian Ocean. And we are also praying that we will be able to host a scheduling meeting with pastors representing our four training areas. So there is a lot before us. But we will accomplish it with the Lord leading and empowering us!!

God make you all bold witnesses to His love in Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kastars, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Ghana," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

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