

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Mountains and Plains

*'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.* (LSB 414, Stz. 1)

We can understand Peter's words to his Master. Why not stay? Why not build booths in which to abide? It was good to be there. They were with Christ and they were in glory with Him. There was Moses and Elijah. And there Jesus shone with all the glory He has always had in the presence of His Father. It was good to be there.

In a much less spectacular way, we have found ourselves in a good place. We are here in America. Our children – Joshua, Gretchen, and Jonathan – are here. Our grandson, Isaiah, is here. Our mothers are here. And the food here is so good. Why not stay? Why not serve here in America? Why put yourself at “risk”?

Peter's suggestion was answered by a word from heaven. *“This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”* (Luke 9:35) It was also answered by the actions of the Lord. *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.* (Luke 9:51) This Jesus had a job to do and nothing would dissuade Him from doing it. He was sent to fulfill God's work.

While we have not heard a voice from heaven, we still have heard the call of God. That call has led us to live in a totally different culture, to go to places we are not sure how to pronounce, and live among people who do not know the love of God in Christ Jesus. And while health concerns sidelined us for a time, the call still stands and the need is just as real. And so we are going. Dale will be going on February 11. And Suzanne, who needs to help her mother with some health needs, will soon follow. We have to leave what is comfortable to do what is critical. Our neighbor, Al-haji Issa; our night guard, Mr. Alhassan; our car mechanic, Al-haji Adam; they all are really nice people. But before God that is not enough! The only way they will be found acceptable by God is standing by in grace through faith in Christ (Romans 5:2). So we go to tell them ... along with many others!

Please make this journey with us by prayer! As we go, go with us by lifting up this critical work of not only us going but also all those men who are being sent through our training. Ask God the Holy Spirit to give us the skills and the grace to do what we are going to do. And pray God to bless many through the sharing of Christ.

And so, we are going. Where is the Lord sending you? What cozy “mount” would you rather tarry on? But where is it that the Lord wants you to go and to do His work of bringing Christ to the nations and the nations to Christ? Just remember, you never go alone!

*'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.* (LSB 414; Stz. 5) And the Good News is, He does! Amen.

**The Kasters
Are
Returning
to Ghana!**



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for the work already done in West Africa.
- Praise God for the Thompsons and Moss's who are deploying.
- Pray for the McDermott, and Schulte families, raising funds for their work in West Africa.
- Pray for our Area Director, Rev. Gary Schulte, that he would heal from a leg break.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the work being by our co-workers Rev. Gaugert, Rev. and Mrs. Wildauer (Togo) and Rev. and Mrs. Schumacher in Accra.
- Ask God to help the ELCG seminary's new leadership team.
- Pray for Pastor Konbat's healing.
- Ask God to bless our Tamale congregation with a spirit of outreach.

You can write us in Ghana:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
TL 375
Tamale, Ghana
West Africa

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."

Good News from Ghana

We regularly hear from our friends in Ghana, both from the missionary community there as well as our Ghanaian friends. We rejoice that the congregation, while challenged, has held together, meeting to receive the Lord's blessings. It makes us encouraged and all the more motivated to go and to get back to work.

Money for Training Expenses

One problem we had last year was a shortage of money to get the job done. While we have been blessed with wonderful donors, those gifts help keep us on the field. They do not address the needs we have when we train – room and board for trainees, production of materials, etc. Thanks be to God, this problem seems to have gone away. We have found some sources within Synod, but we have also found some donors to the work. If you would like to give to the training costs, just send us an email (dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org), and we will help you connect with the work!

Preaching and Sharing

While here at home, we have tried to use our time wisely, visiting congregations to share what we have done and are preparing to do. In January, we visited Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, PA and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL. We thank both of these churches for their generous support, their words of encouragement, and their prayers on our behalf.

Deploying Families

We write in our newsletter about our work. But there are many others already on the field – Jacob Gaugert and the Wildauer family in Dapaong, Togo; David and Joyce Erber as well as Steve and Cindy Schumacher in Greater Accra. But we also give thanks for two new families deploying this month – Doug and Angela Thompson as well as Gary and Sue Moss! They will be based initially in Accra. But they will be exploring their final positions.

In Closing ...

Lent comes early this year – Ash Wednesday is February 10th. Lent is observed in Ghana just like it is here in America. It is a time of spiritual renewal, a time of penitence, prayer, and of devotion to the Word. In Tamale, we will be making our journey under the title "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." We will be reviewing the Small Catechism's instruction to us concerning the Lord's Prayer. Please, as you increase your prayer time, remember this critical work. It has gotten delayed by health and money shortages. But we feel this is all the devil trying to slow the work. Ask God to bless this work, the training of new pastors in the north of Ghana. Ask God to help our congregation in Tamale. Ask God to aid us as we travel and as we transition back into Ghanaian life. And be assured, we will be praying likewise for you.

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasteters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 51034

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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