



News from the Wildauer Family, serving the Lord in Togo and West Africa

The Reformation and the Ends of the Earth

A seminary professor of mine once began a sermon with the statement “The Reformation didn’t begin in a house or on a street. It didn’t begin in a random conversation, but instead began in a classroom where a student was compelled to open and read the Word of God.” The Reformation began because a man dared to allow the Scripture speak for itself by the Holy Spirit. He heard the Word and believed the Gospel message of Jesus Christ was for him and should rightly be proclaimed into the ears and hearts of all people. Thus, the result of the Reformation is not an academic pursuit nor a momentary flash of enthusiasm, but instead is the recommencement of mission work in various forms. When our family visited Germany this past spring, I realized the fruits of the Reformation were not found solely in the writings of Martin Luther. The Gospel of Christ moved men such as Louis Cranach to portray the Gospel in paintings, wood carvings,



and other art forms. The purity of the Word inspired Rev. Paul Gerhardt and Kantors Johann Walter and Johann Sebastian Bach to proclaim justification in music. The freedom of the Gospel brought the civil authorities, the princes, to bear their necks before the emperor rather than deny Christ. From the Wittenberg pulpit to your home, Christ continues to be proclaimed in purity throughout the World. Salvation unto us has come through preachers and missionaries who carry this message to the ends of the earth.



So it is that my family finds itself in northern Togo. This is anywhere but Jerusalem, Wittenberg, or Milwaukee. Yet the message of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of mankind has gone before us here. There is much comfort in knowing this, even as the phrase “And take they our life, goods, fame, child and wife” takes on much more significance. Indeed, “they yet have nothing won; the Kingdom our remaineth” (TLH 262).

So what has the Gospel inspired among local believers? There is a student vicar who is also a painter and artist. He maintains this profession to support his family, as many pastors are not paid full-time. **Included in this special edition newsletter are some of his works which are found on the seminary grounds.** Perhaps the Lord will use his talents to proclaim the Gospel

through art to a culture with varying degrees of education and literacy. Other students have taken to heart recent conversations regarding the content of music appropriate for worship. The Director of the seminary challenged the students to consider drafting songs and choruses which clearly proclaim the message of salvation found only in Jesus Christ. May it be that our heavenly Father raises up a musician for Lutherans throughout Africa.

So how does one commemorate the Reformation in Togo? For the first time ever at the seminary, we had the chance to project the Luther movie in French while a professor explained the setting and impact of this part of history. On the day of the Reformation, a service was held and folks sung boldly “A Mighty Fortress.” Families were taught well that the Reformation was a return to the Apostolic faith which placed Scripture as the sole source of salvation in Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Son has set us free! To God alone be the glory.

Missionary Rev. Micah Wildauer



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