

COMMENDING YOU FOR YOUR LOVE

For the Sake of the Gospel

Three days from now I will be boarding a plane to go to Accra, Ghana, because you are sending me to preach. I will go to preach and teach in the Name of Jesus but on your behalf. It is not in your name but in Christ's Name that I go to them. I would not go unless you sent me as Paul was sent out, for a preacher cannot go unless the Church sends him out to preach to a specific people. You have given me that mission, or sending, just as the prophets and apostles of old were sent to proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Thanks be to God who has raised up a generation of pastors and laymen who desire to be faithful to the Lutheran Confessions. They have called out to Our Father's saying, "Come over and help us," and you have responded in Christian love. I remind you that Pastor Kumi has told us of the dangers of African Christianity, a blend of tribal spiritist religions with American style "success Christianity", that is really not Christianity for it denies the One who died and rose for the redemption of sinful men. The men and women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) are seeking something solid and more Biblical.

We often take Catechism instruction, liturgy and hymnody for granted. In fact, each year fewer Lutheran congregations in America teach the Catechism. In addition, fewer parents bring their children to church, Sunday school, and Catechism instruction. Yet, the men and women of the ELCG are hungry for these things that are so lacking in their midst. They are hungry for a more regular celebration of the Lord's Supper which we have and many in the congregation neglect. Luther noted that even in Wittenberg

those who first rejoiced in the freedom of the Gospel soon neglected the Lord's Supper and the preaching of the Gospel. Those who first flocked to hear the wonderful freedom that they had in the forgiveness of sins, soon turned away from the Gospel and avoided hearing God's Word. We see that in our congregation as well as some neglect the Sacrament and others despise it by refusing to give offerings.

Sin is always a problem for sinners. All of us need the same call to repent and believe in the forgiveness of sins won for us by Christ Jesus our Lord, whether American or Ghanaian. Faith comes by hearing the Gospel preached, and apart from that faith will die. We daily need to return to the Lord for the salvation He has won for us by His blood. By His blood He brings all of us together as one body that is firmly united upon the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Daily the theme of the new school year needs to be our prayer, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105) From far and near the Spirit of God gathers people to Christ through the means of preaching that Word as a lamp for all nations. So it is no small thing that you are sending your pastor to teach pastors for this will affect many generations to come as they learn to faithfully proclaim the Word of Truth without any change.

I commend all of you for your love of Christ and of your fellow believers in Christ that compels you to do this God-pleasing work. May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Fabrizious

