

## OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH LUTHERANS IN GHANA

### *For the Sake of the Gospel*

In March the Rev. John Fehrmann came and updated us on the latest work of The Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation around the world. The CLEF is devoted to translating Lutheran theological materials, offering theological seminars, and providing experienced confessional Lutheran pastors to teach these new Lutheran pastors. He thanked our congregation for our financial support and reminded us that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) was very thankful for the work that I did teaching at the seminary last summer. They have asked that you permit me to return for two weeks of teaching each of the next four years. The tentative dates for this year's trip are now set as the first two weeks in August.

I want to remind you of some of the data about The Republic of Ghana. It is about the size of the state of Indiana and is located between the Ivory Coast and Togo on the Gulf of Guinea. The population of 20 million consists of 100 ethnic groups. While English is the "official" language, there are 72 distinct language groups. According to figures from the year 2000, about 64 percent of the population claims to be Christian. Another 21 percent are Muslim. Of the 72 languages, only 8 have the Bible in their language.

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod missionaries established the ELCG in 1958. It has grown to 200 congregations, 29,000 baptized members, and about 43 ordained pastors. Some of those "congregations" are small preaching stations scattered around the country. They struggle financially and rely on the support of committed Lutherans from the Missouri Synod to support them even as the Jerusalem Christians were in need of the help of the missionary congregations that Paul

visited. Our Synod is supplying funds to build a new seminary in Ghana that will be able to house more students. Currently, the seminary can only take in a new class in each fourth year, train them for four years and then send them out. Sending your Pastor allows an additional faculty member with congregational experience to teach the faith and encourage these men in the work of the Gospel without any additional financial burden to their church body.

The financial commitment of Our Father's to this mission of preaching the Gospel to all nations is \$ 5,000. That money covers the flight, my housing and meals, and any remaining money is given to the hymnal translation project that CLEF is directing in

Ghana. I am pleased to tell you that we are halfway to that goal for this year without any requests for donations. It is my hope that those who desire to support this work will contribute as the Lord has blessed them for God loves a cheerful giver. I am confident that you will be as generous as the Philippians who responded to the opportunity to support the preaching of the Gospel.

You have certainly been generous in supporting the purchase of communion wine and unleavened bread for the congregations of Ghana. The pastors continue to send cards of appreciation. Some of those are posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex. They rejoice that they are able to feed those hungry for the Blessed Sacrament who often had to wait longer than a year to receive this precious gift that we receive every Lord's Day. Pastor Kumi speaks of you with joy. As your pastor I give thanks to God for such generous commitment to the work of the Gospel.

Pastor Fabrizious

