

OUR ONGOING PARTNERSHIP WITH LUTHERANS IN GHANA

For the Sake of the Gospel

Several people have asked if and when I am returning to Ghana this year. The dates of my fourth visit have been uncertain because the students have been out on vicarage serving congregations under supervising pastors. I finally received an answer during the last week. President Fynn and Pastor Kumi would like me to return August 27-September 4.

I will have the opportunity to welcome the men back from their year of congregational work and deal with some of the issues they have encountered in their parishes. The primary focus will again be on their preaching. As always I will not be teaching delivery, but content, as I cannot really evaluate their speaking in their own languages. This year will continue to build upon last year's work in the classroom where they were challenged to read the text more closely and ask questions beyond the surface issues one might see in a Biblical account.

The seminary building that I took pictures of two years ago is still not complete. The economy has hampered building all over the world. They hope to have the construction on Pastor Kumi's home done by the time of my visit, but things never move that fast in Africa because of the financial constraints under which they operate.

Although the economy continues to suffer, the financial commitment of Our Father's to this mission of preaching the Gospel remains a modest \$ 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. The CLEF continues to be one of the most efficiently run mission organizations in the world. I am pleased to tell you that over \$3,500 has already been given 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.

Before my trip I want to remind you again of the communion fund we have established for the work of the Lutheran church in Ghana. We have been able through this fund to quietly encourage the more frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper among our fellow Lutherans. You have certainly been generous in supporting the purchase of communion wine and unleavened bread for the congregations of Ghana. The pastors continue to 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.

The young school at Tema is doing very well at this time. They have a desire to increase the amount of time that Pastor Kumi and the seminarians who assist him can spend teaching in the school. What we take for granted is hard in a situation where virtually all of their teachers are non-Lutherans. They are struggling to improve the system so that their children can be taught the Scriptures on a daily basis from a Lutheran perspective. This would be very helpful for the future of the Lutheran congregations in Ghana as well as improving the proclamation of the Gospel in their community.

Please keep the Lutheran church in Ghana in your prayers and consider supporting the work we do in Ghana. This is truly a partnership in the Gospel with our fellow members of the Body of Christ.

Pastor Fabrizious