



"But we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." 2 Cor 4:7



When HE is SHE, and ALLAH is GOD

She is He?

No, I'm not referring to modern Western issues of gender-identity disorientation.

As an English speaker begins to learn **Hausa**, the main language of northern Nigeria, he/she's confronted with the confusing coincidence that the Hausa word for "he" happens to be "shi" (pronounced just like "she"). Mercifully, the Hausa word for "she" is not "he"! (It's "ita", if you're curious.)

Wane ne yake zuwa?
Who is the one coming?

Shi ne.
He is (the one).

Language is one of the most important ways to enter a new culture. Yes, many Nigerians, especially in urban settings, speak English. So one can easily rationalize that learning Hausa is not necessary. But there is a powerful affirmation of love and concern when a newcomer wants to learn your language. Concepts of the nature of the world, society, right-and-wrong, etc. are encoded in languages. Language opens people to relationships at deeper levels.

Dale is dedicating more time to this than Cheryl is able to with her busy teaching commitments. But there is no better time than at the very beginning to register one's identity in a new community as 'one-intent-on-learning-the-language', before people fix you in the category of 'English-only-foreigner'.

Allah is God?

The question has raised much debate in the West among Christians. But an English speaker learning Hausa quickly discovers that the Hausa word for God is simply "Allah". Yes, it is borrowed from Arabic of course. Many words in Hausa are borrowed from Arabic due to centuries of Muslim/Arabic influence in northern Nigeria. The question here is not what word we use to refer to God. For Hausa-speakers, the question is: "Is the true Allah like Allah seen in the Bible or Allah seen in the Qur'an?" (See [this short article](#) for a helpful discussion on this topic.) This is a worthy question to examine and, in sharing with Muslims, an important distinction to grasp.



Christians in this part of the world are called to share "bisharar [the-good-news-of] Almasihu [the Messiah]." In so doing, Allah will come to be known rightly in Christ Jesus, for, "Shi ('He') ne surar Allah marar ganuwa" — "He is the image of God who is not seen" (Col. 1:15).



Join us in prayer

- For the children in fourth grade and that Cheryl can instruct, guide and nurture them in love and the counsels of God's Word.
- A 'gift of tongue' - that being Hausa - as Dale (especially) has chance to learn some.
- For the Lutheran Church of Nigeria which will, in September, be celebrating the 80th anniversary of its origins as the first LCMS missionaries came in 1936.

Would you also pray this month for progress in developing new opportunities for Lutheran missionary engagement from cultures and nations outside the West, in particular? We need God's guidance as we seek to serve those who desire to join in bringing His salvation to the ends of the earth ...

from everywhere to everywhere

"How's it going so far, Dale and Cheri?"

Mun gode Allah! (We thank God!)

And we thank you for your prayers! We have been in Jos 5 weeks now and things are coming together!

- good progress in regularizing our resident visas.
- We have a bank account, with a debit card (that we are still trying to get working)—both of which we never had in our last sojourn in Nigeria.

And we are adjusting to the nature of things here, like:

- frequent interruptions of **electricity** (yet grateful we have it)
- **water** running out at unexpected times (remembering to reserve some aside)
- **internet** access via different channels (juggling SIM cards from 3 different phone networks for one that works in a given place)—but *what an advance* over when we came 30 years ago with no phone at all!
- getting around by **Ke-ke** (called *Tuk-tuks* in other places — a motorized-tricycle with open cab) 
- every-day **rains** that can come sudden and heavy — while it's rainy season, at least.
- buying things by the **thousands** — i.e., you will hand over about 3,000 Naira (Nigerian currency) for 5 loaves and 2 small fish (= about \$9 US). 
- learning the true cost of things: Since shopping is often a negotiation, you need a good idea of the actual price or you may pay double.
- responding to '*Bature*' or '*Onyocha*' or '*Oyibo*' (all names for white-man in various languages of Nigeria).
- not giving things with the left hand
- sorting your beans to remove any stones before cooking
- not drinking water from the tap, *etc., etc.*

But more importantly we are grateful for a good beginning to **Cheryl's 4th grade class**. She has a great team of colleagues and support staff all ready to help as she grows into this unique school and teaching environment. 

"I am well supplied . . . and my God will supply every need of yours"

- Phil. 4:18-19

Paul's words to the saints at Philippi who aided and encouraged his ministry with their gifts of support resonate with us at this time as we see God's provision for our ministries through you! May he also supply all your needs "according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

No fund-raising 'thermometer' this time. Though we still have a ways to go to reach full support for the year, we are confident in the promise that God will indeed supply whatever is needed!

Thanks so much!

If you are able and as God leads...

Checks can be mailed to:
Global Lutheran Outreach,
6709 Ficus Drive, Miramar, FL 33023.

(Make check out to: "Global Lutheran Outreach" with "Talsma" on memo line.)

To donate online, go to:
www.globallutheranoutreach.com
and click "**Give**"

We are grateful!

In Christ,
Dale and Cheri Talsma

Thrivent Members:

Choice Dollars charitable grant funds can help send missionaries through GLO's *Global Missionary Fund*, which supplies dollars to missionaries experiencing a shortfall in funding.

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to:

Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, and search for Global Lutheran Outreach. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

You cannot designate specific missionaries or projects, but GLO's Global Missionary Fund (where we direct Choice dollars unless otherwise informed) is the perfect place to promote the sending of missionaries where support is chal-

