



*"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*



The "ordinary" coming of God

*"What Child is this, who laid to rest
on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
...Why lies he here in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?"*

[Christmas carol, "What Child is This"]

Later they would say — even while marveling at his words and deeds — "but is this not Joseph's son, who grew up like us, eats and sleeps and dresses like us?"

All so ordinary.

Not rich. Not powerful in any earthly sense. Yes, God's extraordinary work to save comes quite contrary to expectations, in the ordinary:

- a lowly birth,
- the testimony of mere shepherds,
- ordinary water (to grant rebirth),
- ordinary bread and wine (to feed our souls),
- a servant washing feet.

God's power to deliver the world pushes forward not through the mighty and powerful, the rich and the famous, but through the widow's mite, simple fishermen or tax-collectors, jars of clay bearing the



treasure of the Gospel, the power of God for salvation.

It began that way:

*"Life's most precious treasure
Here poor in manger lies"*

[carol: "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"]

And it continues that way. Through ordinary people, humbly, simply, serving.

Like ordinary GLO missionaries.

Merry Christmas!

He came for such as these

Tens of thousands of children have suffered some of the most horrific consequences of the violence brought by the jihadist Boko Haram group in north-east Nigeria. Some Nigerian Christians near Jos responded with self-sacrificing compassion to provide a refuge, "The House of Recab", now sheltering a couple hundred of these vulnerable kids.

The students of Hillcrest school have spent the last several weeks to help raise funds to support this ministry. Each class had selected a project. Cheri's 4th grade class did a car-wash with an accompanying lemon aid stand last week for theirs. They raised the equivalent of about \$150! They also made Christmas cards and brought books to donate. Today, 80 of the kids from the shelter came to meet the kids from Hillcrest, to receive the gifts, and to sing Christmas carols together. The tragic stories of these kids, and their new hope through



Christ's love, had a noticeable impact on Cheri's students. A great practical example of the impact of what Christmas is all about.

(Post-car-wash, they had fun soaking each other!).



...and for such as these



There are children in the world being raised homeless, neglected by parents unable to care for themselves, much less their children—children valued for their ability to garner a pittance of pity begging in urban night spots.

Joe and Viya Stoltenow hope to extend love and hope to some of these. A bath, a meal, a chance to go to school, a hug, and introducing them to a loving God who came, in Jesus, for kids just like them.



Dale traveled to Cambodia last month to see Joe & Viya, learn about their mission vision, and see how GLO can help. We were happy to connect with the Lutheran church in Battambang (started 13 years ago from Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA). Christians remain a small minority in Cambodia, but for now at least there is an opening to share the Gospel in this land dominated by Buddhism.

Joe & Viya are making preparations for the work to commence next summer. How wonderfully God works through ordinary people in simple acts of love inspired by the love that came down at Christmas!—a baby born homeless-like in a stable—who as an adult said words perhaps the homeless best understand: "but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Lk 9:58).



As God leads...

We thank God for his guidance for **Lumembo and Kulangu Tshiswaka**. They have accepted an invitation to serve in Ethiopia! We are excited about this opportunity.

The Tshiswakas bring a wealth of cross-cultural experience and learning (from DR Congo to Jamaica to Canada) and a zeal for the ministry of the Gospel to Onesimos Nesib Seminary. They will help to train pastors and church workers for, especially, the Oromo-speaking populations in the Lutheran church.



But now their first step is sharing their mission so as to discover the supporters that God will provide to enable them to serve the church in Ethiopia.

To support our ministries:

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.)

Trusting in God's provision

Missionaries Dixon & Christy Gbeanquoi, are on furlough in Dixon's home country of Liberia. Their visit with family was interrupted however when they received the sad news that there was a fire in their home in Tanzania. Eliseo, a leader from their congregation, was quite seriously burned trying to put out the fire. We thank God for preserving his life. Please pray for his ongoing recovery. While significant damage was done, the fire was contained before it could destroy everything.

Dixon and Christiana are raising support for their return in January. Now they need to also replace belongings and repair damages. If you can lend a hand in their need, please let us know.



They are not, though, surprised to encounter such troubles, knowing Satan would like to turn them back from their mission in Kisesa. They recognize even this as an opportunity to demonstrate their faith and commitment to proclaim the One who has defeated the power of the devil where many people are still needing

Join us in prayer

- For Eliseo's recovery from the burns.
- For God's provision for Dixon & Christy for replenished support and home repairs . . . and peace of mind.
- Thanks for God's leading, and prayer for God's provision of mission partners for the Tshiswakas for their service in Ethiopia .
- For Hausa learning.
- For the Stoltenows as they plan and prepare, and discover their team of supporters, and for the street kids so in need of love.
- Thanksgiving for a blessed first semester of teaching for Cheri!
- Thanksgiving that the girl in Cheri's class—whose mom died the end of last school year has done well this first semester back (one of our first prayer requests last Spring).

...in Jesus' name.

To donate online, go to:

www.globallutheranoutreach.com and click "Give"

Thank you so much!

In Christ,

Dale and Cheri Talsma