



"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



Didn't know who he was

I wonder how many times I have turned someone away, not knowing who it was who came to visit me.

A tragic note is found in the Christmas story:

As God our Maker came to us—right up to us—the world didn't KNOW who had come!

Yes, the world—people—seek truth, seek the light of knowledge, but when it comes – He comes . . . What? We turn him away?!!

John 1:9-10 says: "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him."



In a manner only God could arrange, three inquiring nobles from nations away pressed on till finding the One whose arriving was peculiarly disclosed to them.

They bowed down ...
in worship ...
before a baby ...
of lowly birth!?

Did they know who this was?

Profound mystery surrounds his coming. God's way is surely not man's. How can it be that "though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him" when he came?

Sin.

Darkness.

Pride. Though we seek truth and light, we want it on our terms.

"Many people start out seeking, but deep down they aren't willing to bow down to anyone"

(Meet Him at the Manger, Jill and Stuart Briscoe).

...yet to all who received him... (see John 1:13)

This Christmas: **May you be among those who bow down and worship.**

And there beside the manger, may you remember the nations of people who yet fail to recognize who has come. **May we renew our zeal to bear him witness.**

Africa – the most Christians

In 2018, Africa became the continent with more professed Christians than any other continent in the world.

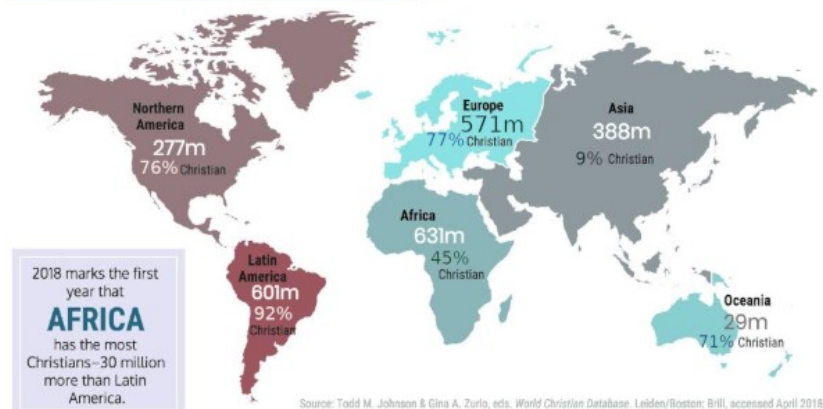
The 631 million Christians, however, is less than half the continent's population. Nonetheless, it points to the importance of African churches assuming a greater role in global outreach. **NOW is the time!**

At the same time, the Muslim-dominated northern half of Africa is one of the least-reached parts of the world. This includes much of northern Nigeria.

They don't know who he is.

Christians, 2018

2.5 billion total, 33% of global population



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Lutheran churches in Africa are starting to put more emphasis on mission outreach. GLO is here to support this new advance, especially in the cross-cultural and cross-borders extension of mission endeavors. GLO is seeking to move into promoting mission conferences for Lutherans in areas like Africa and Latin America, challenging current thinking and perceived barriers that hinder greater mission involvement, while inspiring faithful convictions as to how God can and will use Lutherans from everywhere to proclaim to everywhere the "good news of great joy which will be for all people".



Unto you is born a Savior!

Talsma Synopsis

June-July: We were able to do a 6 week furlough to visit family (from Boston to California, and midwest) and a few supporters. It was a blessing! Thank you for prayers.

July we returned to Jos a bit early as Cheri (with Dale's help) is now a part-time Member Care coordinator for expatriate staff at Hillcrest. That means, we work to help make sure new missionary staff recruited to teach and serve at Hillcrest school are successful in adjusting to a new culture and to different ways of managing daily living. It also includes assuring housing and other needs are being met.

This does not mean Cheri is no longer teaching. Her fourth graders remain her primary service of love, while she has a part-time teacher take over about 4 teaching hours a week (Science and Social Studies).



Aug: School resumed at Hillcrest with the 4th grade maxed out at 25 eager young learners (for the most part).

Sept-Oct: After attending the Abuja zonal convention of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria, Dale traveled to Kenya to link up with Rev. Jim Tino (Director of GLO) to consult with leaders of the Evang. Lutheran Church of Kenya regarding the way forward in their mission undertaking: to send one of their pastors and his family to serve among South Sudanese refugees in northern Kenya. We also spent time with the missionary family (Amos and Evelyn Otula) in prayer, encouragement and further orientation for their support-development and missionary service.



(Rev. Amos Otula baptizing a baby and preaching at a congregation in Kenya.)

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From Kenya we bused south to visit GLO missionaries in Tanzania:

Amber and Austin Reed are working with

Lutheran Church in Shinyanga. Amber is completing her internship as a DCE from Concordia University – Texas. Though their original intentions of working with albino children encountered some barriers, they are collaborating with the church supporting other ministries, including day care ministry and supporting deaconess work young albino women.



ities of collaborating with the church’s desire to promote Lutheran mission outreach. You may recall that former president Samuel Udofia has been assisting GLO’s mission as a board member.

We are prayerfully pursuing the possibility of facilitating the sending of an LCN pastor and his family into a foreign mission field. You will hear more about that later, we pray.

Also: For those who have been with us from our earlier ministry in Nigeria (in the 80s-90s), you may remember one of our friends and (then) lay leader Benedick Egede Egre from Nwang. He is now ordained. Dale saw him and his wife in Uyo also. Rev. Egre assumed ministry there in September at a congregation that needed healing after a damaging split. In December, he was thanking God that people who left are now coming back!

Dixon and Christy Geanquoi Continue serving in church planting and leadership training. Christy is teaching Communication at the Bible College in Mwanza. Dixon is teaching theology there part-time to future pastors and evangelists. But continues serving the congregation in Kisesa which has grown into a full parish and has embarked on a new mission congregation in the area.



Above: Rev. Egede Egre and Besi ordination picture.

Right: Rev. Egre and wife (with grand-daughter) beside Nung Oku



Nuru Lutheran Church at Kisesa, and their new children’s ministry building under construction. Jim Tino with Dixon and daughter Millcah.

Nov: Dale traveled for a GLO Board meeting in Dallas, hosted generously by Zion Lutheran Church and Rev. Robert Preece, who we first met in 1997 when he and his wife Linda visited the LCN! GLO tries to have one face-to-face board meeting each year. We welcomed two members for whom this was their first face-to-face GLO meeting: Wondimu Mathewos Game (mission director – Ethiopia, currently studying together with his wife at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) and John Tape (financial pro – St. Louis).

Oct-Nov: Dale traveled to the central hub of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria at Obot Idim, Uyo to meet with Archbishop Christian Ekong, Seminary Principal Rev. Michael Adoga, former LCN presidents (and friends), among others. We continue to explore possibil-

Dec: Seemed we mostly were battling illness, but thankfully that is about to finish, we pray! We have again planned with our scattered children and grandchildren to reunite over Christmas in Chicago and Michigan where we can also spend time with our parents and other relatives, to the extent possible.

Some CHALLENGES and HURDLES

We knew this would not be easy, but we trust God is working.

Would you join us in prayer:

- Pastor Lumembo and Kalangu Tshiswaka have been delayed in deploying to Onesimos Nesib Seminary in Ethiopia awaiting the issuance of work permit. A transition of government in Ethiopia (widely welcomed) has meant other upheavals postponing progress in numerous departments, including immigration. We still pray for this to be completed soon and the Tshiswaka to be able to deploy early next year.
- A big challenge we face is the perception that it is not possible for churches in poor countries to undertake and support mission outreach to foreign fields. With God all things are possible!

An individual need:

- A brother I first knew in Malakal, South Sudan is now in Kenya. His family were all killed in the Sudanese civil war. He lacks support to fulfill a dream planted from his father, a calling to prepare himself as a Lutheran missionary and pastor. In the mean-

time he undertakes mission outings to refugees from South Sudan in Kenyan camps with whatever local helps he can gather in Nairobi. We pray God will lead us to see the way through for him to be able to study at a Lutheran seminary.

And closer to home:

- We thank God that the Lutheran congregation in our former home of Nwang, Ekajuk, Nigeria (near Ogoja) has started a Lutheran school on their own that now accepts over 130 students from pre-school up to 3rd grade! They have been awarded the "Approval to Open" from the government but are challenged by accompanying requirements to upgrade facilities (classrooms, etc. – they currently use the church building and rooms in our former house, which also serves as the parsonage for the pastor). We pray God will provide through His people so they so this ministry can continue and grow as they seek to serve and evangelize the community in the powerful way.

To all who have given throughout the year in support for our ministry, and prayed for us,

Our deepest gratitude!

We couldn't do it without you, our partners!



Merry Christmas!

*We wish you a joy-filled celebration of our Savior's birth.
And may 2019 be a year of deeping love and faith
as you grow in God's grace!*

Love, Dale and Cheri

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.)

To donate online, go to:

www.globallutheranoutreach.com and click "Give"

Thank you!