



"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



Visits to East Africa

In January/February, Dale was able to visit our missionaries in Tanzania and get acquainted with a new mission undertaking beginning in Ethiopia.



(In February/March he was able to visit missionaries in Guinea. That will come in the next newsletter.)

Dear Supporters,

I apologize about the delay in getting out this newsletter. It was supposed to come out in February. Unfortunately it is now late in March.

I want to assure you that the delay does not represent a lack of appreciation for your prayers and support.

You are so very much appreciated! *We couldn't do our work without you.*

I am just very challenged when it comes to composing a newsletter in a reasonably short time.

Ordained . . . into service

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ..." (Mark 10:45).

As God calls people to be servants in the office of the Ministry of Word, the Church of God affirms that call publicly by a service of ordination in which the servant is committed to that office with the laying on of hands and prayer.

Those of you who have supported our ministry with GLO are long familiar with Dixon Gbeanquoi and his wife Christiana. Dixon came to faith in a Lutheran church in Liberia, fled as a refugee to Ghana, was active in a Lutheran church in the refugee camp, was sent to Nigeria to study evangelism, and then pastoral ministry, and eventually completed a masters degree in systematic theology. With his history in different Lutheran churches, his path to ordination was a bit more complicated. With a passion for mission outreach, as he was concluding his training in Nigeria he was happy to learn of the opportunity to serve with GLO. One of the questions Dixon wrestled with was in what country and under which Lutheran church to finish the vicarage or internship portion of his preparation.



One option we considered was that he could finish qualification for ordination in a church in yet *another* country -- one where he would begin missionary service. And that is what happened.



Dixon and Christy started missionary service in Tanzania 2 years ago. The Bishop was happy to work with him to complete a vicarage together with others in their diocese (district) while Dixon served in a mission congregation. In January, 9 pastors were ordained—and one spoke Swahili with a Liberian-Nigerian accent!

We thank God for Dixon's willingness to answer God's call and, together with Christiana, to commit himself to humbly and faithfully serve His Lord and Savior. We especially rejoice that God's Word is bearing fruit in Kisesa, building up the congregation and reaching the lost, as Dixon preaches, teaches and serves under Christ.

Resuming service

In January, the Funkes resumed their ministries in Tanzania after furlough where son Michael got to meet his US family for the first time.

Those who follow the Funkes know how God is using them to bolster the ministries of the Lutheran church in the Shinyanga diocese. Rev. Nzelu, headmaster of the Lutheran High School in Mwadui, expressed to me his great appreciation for the many ways in which Eric and Linda have been able to help develop the school into a leading school, committed to Christian nurture, while keeping it affordable to families of minimal resources. With their supporters, they have helped develop a computer lab where Eric is teacher and IT expert, and has even assists the wider Tanzanian education system. In addition to conducting guidance courses for students, Linda encourages and supports fellow deaconesses, and is also helping the diocese launch a Christian Health Evangelism program through the congregations.



They returned to Tanzania in time to be part of the GLO contingent at Dixon's ordination.

Training leaders for service

I met up with Rev. Lumembo Tshiswaka in Addis Ababa for a get-acquainted visit to the Onesimos Nesib Seminary of the Ethiopian Lutheran church known as Mekane Yesus. Rev. Tadesse Disasa (principal) met us in Addis Ababa for the 11 hour bus ride to Aira in western Ethiopia. Lumembo and his wife Kalangu are preparing to move there where Lumembo will join the faculty. This visit enabled both parties to map out preparations needed on both ends.



Lumembo (L) and Principal Disasa (center) at the seminary

For the Tshiswakas, the most immediate need is a support team to enable them to go. Pray for them in this first stage of missionary service.

Update on the fire

In our last newsletter we shared how the Gbeanquois' house was destroyed by fire and Eliseo was burned.

- 1) We thank God Eliseo is doing much better!
- 2) The Gbeanquois have rented a new house and have begun to refurbish it with help from several supporters.
- 3) The diocese is working to resolve the legal issues of culpability. Pray that this can be handled in a way that gives glory to God.

The WHERE and HOW of mission

With most of the world still "separate from Christ ... without hope and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12), and with most of the unreached living where Christians are a small marginalized minority, it is natural to think mission outreach should focus on such least reached places. So we may wonder: Why should missionaries go to serve in two of the fastest growing Lutheran churches in the world (i.e., Ethiopia and Tanzania)?

- 1 Fast **growing churches need lots of workers** and trainers to keep moving outward (there remain millions who still need the Gospel) and to grow believers in maturity.
 - 2 In addition, the global, multi-ethnic Body of Christ benefits from the cross-fertilization of members from different nations – **learning from each other**, bringing unique gifts and understandings.
 - 3 These churches are also beginning to be **senders** of missionaries to other countries, and GLO, by design and commitment, would like to encourage and enhance those opportunities, as God leads.
- ! But most important is to **leave it to the Lord of the Harvest!** We can plan and strategize, but ultimately it is God who is carrying out HIS plan, and we wouldn't want to be part of any other!

Join us in prayer

- Thanksgiving for Eliseo's recovery from the burns.
- For Dixon, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, to be kept and guided by the Spirit to serve faithfully, reflecting Christ's love with all humility.
- God's provision of mission partners for the Tshiswakas for the work in Ethiopia.

...in Jesus' name.

If you are able and as God leads, please consider helping us continue this work.

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 so much!

In Christ,

Dale and Cheri Talsma