



*"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 Class of 2025

"Christ in us, the hope of glory," was this year's theme for Hillcrest School, Nigeria. In August Cheri will begin teaching the Hillcrest Class of 2025—all 19 fourth graders!

The class is evenly divided between boys and girls, 9-10 years of age. Fifteen are Nigerian and even one has the same name as our granddaughter, Zara. Along with their Nigerian classmates, others are from Canada, the US, and Europe. Their families are Protestant, Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, and Muslim.



Hillcrest 4th grade class, 1999 when our son Adam was there.

the cross, the hope of glory is now offered to people of every tribe, nation, and culture.

I look forward to sharing the message of reconciliation with my students and their families. I know of two students who became Christians while attending Hillcrest. Steven, from China, in a video about the school said,

"I came here as an atheist but after two years of stay here my friends helped me to understand the Gospels and what Christianity meant, and God touched my heart and today I'm a Christian. I'm really very proud of that and that's a heritage I'll take away from Hillcrest to wherever I go."

The school's theme is from Paul's letter to the Colossians (1:27), which in the GNB version says: **"God's plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. And the secret is that Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God."** Through Christ's suffering and death on

We also knew of a Muslim girl who graduated in the 1990's who came to Christ through Hillcrest. She was subsequently cut off from her family, but was invited to stay at a classmate's home in the U.S. This is a legacy I hope to build on, as did many others, including many Lutheran missionaries we have known who've impacted so many lives over the years.

Salt of the earth

Hillcrest wants their students to be well prepared to live boldly and confidently for Christ so others will want to know why they are different and become curious about Christ. Some of the students will remain in Nigeria and others will travel far and wide. I'm committed to inspiring my students to be the salt of the earth wherever they go in life.

When first opened, the school's main purpose was to educate children of expatriate missionaries. Currently, the majority of students have Nigerian parents who value the high quality, well-rounded Hillcrest education which offers students a moral base, Christian worldview, and skills needed to operate in global communities. Hillcrest aims to **"make a world of difference to build a different world."**



And many of Hillcrest's graduates have done just that. They are making positive differences around the world as nurses, doctors, teachers and lawyers, as authors and speakers to Christian women's conferences, development workers, Washington DC aides and UN staffers, owners of bakeries and restaurants, a Hollywood script writer, musicians, and pilots, not to mention missionaries and ministers of the Gospel.

Most importantly, however, we agree with Paul at the end of Colossians chapter 1:

"He [Christ] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

Some interesting facts about Hillcrest School



Middle school class from 1999, when our daughter Tiffany was there.

- 279 students representing 16 nationalities
- Founded in 1942
- Eight Christian churches/organizations join to sponsor the school today
- Lutheran missionaries from the LCMS began cooperating with the school in 1963 and for about 50 years provided teachers and administrators and chaplains through the Lutheran Church of Nigeria which continues as a cooperating body.

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,

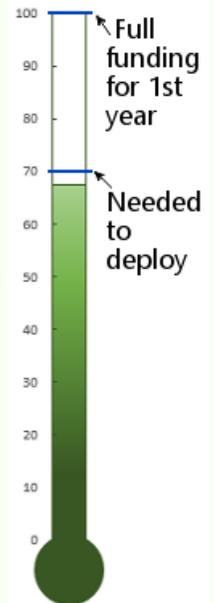
Dale and Cheri Talsma

Preparing to deploy as God supplies . . . thru U all!

Last month we were still under 60%, but now we are close to the amount needed to deploy . . . which is good, since we are about 5 weeks from our flight out!

We are ***humbled*** by the generosity of so many, ***encouraged*** by your words of support, and ***grateful*** for your prayers that God will supply all our needs and fulfill the purpose for which he sends us.

We still are asking God to direct us to partners who will help us reach our support goal, and invite you to ask God if you might join in helping Cheri to teach and nurture the 4th graders in Nigeria and Dale to help foster greater mission engagement of Lutherans, from Africa especially.



Join us in prayer

This month we would especially like to invite some of you to join us in upholding in prayer the 19 fourth graders who will be entrusted to Cheri's care and teaching in the year ahead. If you would like to commit to that, please let us know.

Right now, please pray for one fourth grade girl, and her sister in kindergarten, as their mother passed away the last week of school. We rejoice she was a Believer, but know her absence will still be a difficult adjustment for her family.

Also, join us in thanking God for

- granting the provision of our STR visas for Nigeria!
- an uplifting and fruitful international GLO board meeting earlier this month

And,

- for God's direction regarding a missionary training proposal for India
- and that we can get sorted and packed for our-move to Nigeria coming sooner than imagined!