



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”
Luke 2:14

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Hymns are wonderful. They teach, and, depending on the musical setting, create the mood for that which we are singing. Faithful hymns sustain and uplift our minds and souls.

The hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt, wrote a beautiful hymn entitled, “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is.” It is hymn #81 in TLH. Stanza 5 captures the thought behind the angels’ song - which entails the plight of mankind (sin & death), and God’s great love for us and our deliverance:

Remember thou
What glory now
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
The angel host
Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
(Paul Gerhardt, 1653)



Through all of life, especially in the midst of malady and ‘sadness,’ we have the greatest ‘glory,’ ‘bliss’ and ‘gladness,’ because of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. He was born to be our Savior from sin, death, and satan. Through the forgiveness of sins, freely given to us for Christ’s sake, even in the midst of ‘earthly sadness,’ we have peace - the peace of sins forgiven, and the sure hope of deliverance to everlasting life. This ‘glory’ is what God has prepared for us in Christ. This is the ‘peace’ of which the angels sing, and the pleasure of God toward all who look to Christ by faith alone.

What a wonderful hymn! Truly, “The angel host can never boast of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.”



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” Luke 2:11.

Martin Luther wrote in another hymn:

What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and satan rage and chafe,
Christ is your brother - ye are safe
(TLH, 103, st. 4)

Angela and I wish you a very blessed and Merry Christmas, and peace to you in Christ.

Rev. Doug & Angela Thompson

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, please send an email message to: doug.thompson@lcmsintl.org - with the word “ADD” or “REMOVE” in the subject line.

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To Our Dear Friends in Christ:

During the months of October and November, we traveled extensively throughout North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana. During these visits, we reported on our work: past, present, and future. It was such a joy, rejuvenating (and tiring!), visiting and revisiting pastors, people, and congregations who have supported us over the past two years, as well as visiting and meeting new congregations as well! God has opened so many doors that we could never have imagined. Words cannot express our overwhelming gratitude! The only regret we have is that we are not able to visit everyone we wanted to see. Our desire is to see you all to report and thank you in person but it is now time to return to Africa and the work at hand.

The Apostle Paul's words to the Corinthians are fitting:

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God" (2 Corinthians 9:10-12).

We are confident that God will bring about 'many thanksgivings' to Himself as men in Sierra Leone are taught the faithful teaching and preaching of Christ crucified, for the forgiveness of sins, so that they may be ordained and sent to their own villages to teach and preach the same... then will come the "thanksgivings," from the lips of all who ***"proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).***

One thing that stands out in the course of all our travels is the incredible faithfulness of God to us and you, His people, and the fruits of that faithfulness. Wherever our travels took us, we were eagerly received by pastors and people, served in ways that can only be described as godly, and supported through prayers, encouragement, and means that supports us in our task. We humbly thank you for your kind and faithful support and pray God's blessing upon it. We continue to receive many inquiries as to the most direct and best way of financially supporting us. Please follow the directions below, utilizing either Mission Central or the LCMS Prayer Cards. Again, we humbly covet your prayers and sincerely thank you for your gracious support.

December has also been a busy month! We have wrapped up our visits with our former colleagues and congregations in our home circuit of southeastern Montana. We have accomplished much work on our house, preparing it for our coming departure, packing and storing our few remaining belongings. We now focus our remaining days spending time with our son, Richard, and his fiancé, Jessica...our daughter, Krista, and her boyfriend, Zach, and other close family and friends. We ask you to please keep them all in your prayers also.

As we arrive back in Sierra Leone, we will continue to keep you apprised of our work. We immediately hit the ground with a two-week training session in Freetown, followed by much traveling throughout the country to meet with church leaders. We will also begin extensive language learning and will be searching for a home. We have an upcoming retreat in April, followed by an LCMS Medical Mercy Team, coming to Sierra Leone, in May. Please continue to pray for our health and safety, and for a peaceful election process for Sierra Leone in March. In Africa, one never really knows if things will go as planned as circumstances and situations can change very quickly. So we again begin to prepare for reentering the life of uncertainty and ambiguity.

Today is Christmas Eve...December 24th the night we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Life is no less ambiguous now, as it was then, over 2000 years ago. Even though it seems more familiar today, here at home, in Montana...in 10 days, it will be far less familiar, at home, in Sierra Leone...but God's promises never change.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:10-14

Ten more days and we go by faith and in His peace – the peace of sins forgiven and the sure hope of glory. To God alone be the glory!



Merry Christmas! Your servants in Christ, Doug & Angela Thompson

Please stay in contact w/us by email, doug.thompson@lcmsintl.org or angela.thompson@lcmsintl.org
or by Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Meansofgrace

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Douglas & Angela Thompson, please send a tax-deductible gift to:
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