

Houge Mission News

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Claude and Rhoda Houge are serving with Lutheran Bible Translators in Ghana, West Africa, teaching the children of LBT missionaries David and Valerie Federwitz.

Christmas Greetings from Both of Us in Ghana!

Rhoda arrived in Tamale as planned on December 7, and she was able to start teaching with Claude the following Monday. When our two students found out we didn't have many Christmas decorations, they made us this lovely, detailed nativity set complete with snowflakes! We have several handmade African crèches in the states, but this is our new favorite!



At this Christmas season, we are especially glad to be part of a mission that brings the message of Christ's birth to people in their own language. As the angel said to the shepherds that first Christmas:

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for **all the people**.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

At the church we attend in Tamale – "All Nations Lutheran Church" – we hear God's Word every Sunday both in English and Bimoba.

Teaching is going well. The children are a joy to work with, and it seems that after a few bumps getting started, the daily schedule is falling into place as we share in the teaching responsibilities.





The Federwitz family has graciously invited us to share the noon meal with them on school days, and delicious Ghanaian fare is always on the menu. One of our favorite dishes is “fufu,” made with pounded yams. The children enjoy helping pound fufu and serving it with palm nut soup.



Since it was taking 25 minutes to walk to school (and back) every day, we decided to upgrade our mode of transportation by getting a small 125 cc motorcycle. It facilitates travel to the classroom and local markets, but we tend to avoid the busy and crowded city center.



As we write this, we are enjoying Christmas with our friends and former missionary colleagues, Rev. Walter and Lidia Winterle, in South Africa. Walter is the Rector of the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria. The Winterles are taking good care of us as we experience a very developed part of Africa as well as several wonderful Christmas worship experiences in English and German.

May the Lord bless you richly as you celebrate the precious gift of Jesus!

Together in His Mission,
Claude and Rhoda Houge

Prayer and Praise:

- *Praise God that our teaching is going well and that we have such enjoyable students!*
- *Praise God that our son Ben is doing very well with his recovery from heart surgery.*
- *Pray for safe travel for both of us, both locally and internationally.*
- *Pray for continued peace and security in the Northern Region of Ghana where we live.*
- *And we continue to thank God for all of you who are partnering with us in this mission.*

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