

Houge Mission News

November 2018

Volume 1, No. 5

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

Serving in Two Locations!

As we shared in our last newsletter, Claude flew to Ghana on Oct 18 to begin teaching in Tamale, while Rhoda stayed in the states to help with our son Ben and his family while he is recovering from open-heart surgery.

Claude in Ghana

It took Claude a little while to get our house in order, although he is blessed with someone to help clean a few times a week, as well as do the laundry. He also had to get reacquainted with Tamale, where we haven't been for over 15 years. And even then, it was a place we came to resupply, download our dial-up email (!), do some banking, and then get back to our village 4 hours away, so we didn't really know the city that well. A lot has changed, but some things are familiar. He was surprised when he went back to our favorite local restaurant, and Mohammed, the waiter, recognized him! He said that even though Tamale is a fairly large city, it feels very rural as our house is on an unpaved road with lots of chickens, goats, guinea fowl, and other critters roaming about. He's awakened every morning around 4:30 by the Muslim call to prayer (which comes over loudspeakers from mosques in opposite directions). His goal is to have coffee and begin his own devotions before the call to prayer. Then just before sunup, sets out for his morning run to avoid the hotter temperatures. It's been around 100 degrees most days since he got there. He hopes before too long this will all seem somehow normal!



Claude has reconnected with some of our church friends, such as Pastor John Konbat (pictured, left) who is leading worship at the Lutheran Church in Tamale. We knew him well when we lived in Ghana (1998-2003). He is still using a crutch after a motorcycle accident 3 years ago, but he has a very positive attitude about his life and ministry.

Claude has also begun teaching Micah and JoyAnna, taking over some classes and beginning to transition into others. He certainly enjoys working with the children, but he has realized he hasn't kept up with all the stuff he learned quite a few years ago (or maybe didn't even have it in school back when!). "He who teaches learns twice."

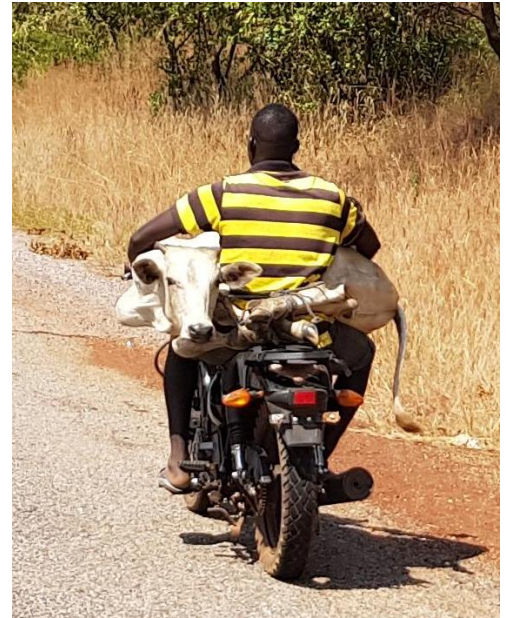


Claude has a bike to ride, thanks to the Federwitz family. I think the basket is a great addition!



This friendly woman sells "Worlds Famous" peanuts and popcorn at a kiosk near our home in Tamale. Claude says they are great for munching!

Our co-worker Paul Federwitz took this picture in Northern Ghana. The cow doesn't look too upset about this, maybe because he has the driver's complete attention. This shows a lot of determination!



Rhoda in Boston



This may not be overseas mission work, but I really feel that this is a ministry in itself. I'm thankful I can be here when the family needs extra help after Ben's open-heart surgery. Ben was told he couldn't lift over 10 pounds until around Dec. 6, so I have been busy with little Emi. She is pretty active and just learning to walk. Oh, and really adorable, in case you haven't figured that out! She celebrated her first birthday on November 10, and it was great to be able to join in the celebration of a deer-themed birthday party that her mother Jutta planned.

The exciting news is that I actually have my ticket for Ghana for December 5! I'm flying through Amsterdam to Accra, and then on to Tamale, so Claude and I will be together on Dec. 7! We are so looking forward to that, although going from cold temperatures to daily highs around 100 degrees is going to be a real adjustment!

We invite you to partner with us helping to make God's Word available to people in their own language!

Together in His Mission,
Claude and Rhoda Houge

Prayer and Praise:

- Praise God that Claude has begun teaching in Ghana and that Rhoda will soon join him!
- Praise God that Ben is improving daily with his recovery, and pray that the family will adjust to my departure. (And for me, as I miss this precious little one!)
- Pray for safe travel for both of us, both locally and internationally.
- Pray for patience as we are separated for so long! (And give thanks for phone calls!)
- And we continue to thank God for all of you who are partnering with us in this mission.

Correspondence and Contributions can be sent to:

Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia MO 64020
Designation: Houge Ministry

E-mail: Claude-Rhoda.Houge@lbt.org

Give online: <https://lbt.org/project/claude-rhoda-houge/>