

International Missionaries



Rev. David and Joyce Erber
Our Missionaries to Ghana

Rev. David and Joyce Erber serve as missionaries with The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in West Africa, where Pastor Erber serves as area facilitator for English-speaking West Africa. He is responsible for LCMS work and missionaries in the countries of The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Although English is the “national language” of each of these countries, this region of almost 200 million people consists of 657 distinct language groups. Pastor Erber works closely with the national church leaders to sustain and lead approximately 1,000

Lutheran congregations in proclaiming the Gospel to people who do not know Jesus. He also coordinates a Christian outreach master's degree through the Hoffmann Institute at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., for pastors and church leaders in Nigeria.

The Erbers have served in Africa since 1986. The Erbers lived among the Bokyi people in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria, where Pastor Erber was engaged in church planting and leadership development. While there, David also completed the Ph.D. in Missiology degree at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Then Pastor Erber taught at the Lutheran Church of Nigeria seminary.

The Erbers' children, Luke, Jonathan and Naomi, were born in Jos, Nigeria, and graduated from high school in Jos. In 2012, the Erbers moved from Nigeria to Ghana, West Africa. David graduated from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Concordia Theological Seminary. Joyce (Clark) is from Loveland, CO and graduated from Valparaiso University.

Together, the Erbers studied linguistics in Grand Forks, N.D., and Dallas, Texas. Joyce has also completed a master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages, which gives her opportunities to work with women in a witnessing context and to support the English language needs of our training programs.

Please pray for the Erbers as they minister to the people of The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Ask the Lord to raise up Christ-centered leaders of Lutheran congregations and that the Holy Spirit would continue to sustain and grow the Lutheran church bodies in English-speaking West Africa.