

Dear friends and family,

[Y]ou are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

<sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

There are times in life when we get to see and experience the world around us from a different view. We live, look, and learn daily from our perspective, but God also grants us amazing opportunities to see His work from another pair of lenses.

In the beginning of July I heard about a previous missionary and his son who were coming back to visit Komba land. They lived and worked here in Gbintiri for about 5 years. They built the house I am living in, along with almost all the other buildings here on the mission property.

It had been 17 years since the father had been back to visit, and almost 20 years since the son had been back.

I had a short visit with them, yet it was an enriching experience. I was privileged to see and hear about their life here through a new perspective. I heard them speak about their work. I heard memories of activities and people that interacted with them. I even know some of those same Komba men and women, they are leaders in the churches here.

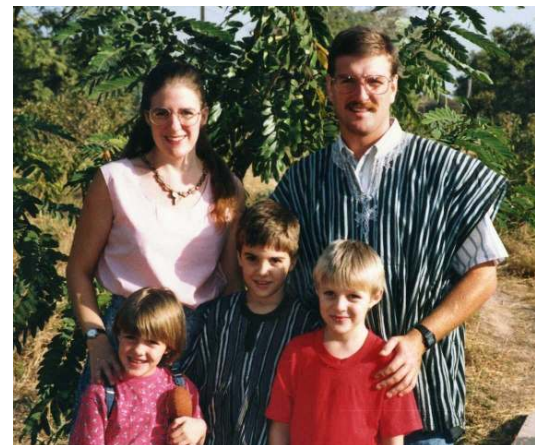
Have you ever asked someone about what life was like *when...* I’m guessing many of you have done this. For those of you who have moved, have you gone back to visit? How about twenty years after you have lived somewhere and you haven’t returned since? I’m guessing there are fewer of you out there who have had this opportunity.

The following are two thoughts that remain from their visit.

The first is that I was able to hear from the son about life growing up here. Now that he is an adult, things look different from what he remembered. The place seemed larger, because our world as children seems larger. Activities like hotwheel cars

Overview of 2017

**September:** Consultant checking  
**October-December:** Linguistic and exegetical work in Gbintiri.



Rev. Carl Rockrohr with his wife, Deaconess Deb, and their family at Gbintiri Lutheran Mission. Dec. 15, 1996

Rev. Rockrohr with “market teachers” who received bikes from a mission project. Many of these men are pastors and church leaders today. One is a translator for the OT project. 1996



## Prayer Requests

- **For the translation team as we meet with the translation consultant in September.**
- **For guidance in formatting the Komba lectionary and missal.**
- **For people here as they are out harvesting until the end of November.**
- **How may I pray for you? Please let me know so that I may be praying for you too!**



*Me with Reverends Carl and Paul  
Rochrohr outside the Gbintiri  
Lutheran mission house.  
July 2017*

**Contributions:**  
Lutheran Bible Translators  
PO Box 789  
Concordia, MO 64020

Checks should be written to  
Lutheran Bible  
Translators with  
***Ersland Ministry***  
on the memo line.  
You can also give  
online at [LBT.org](http://LBT.org)



zooming down the hallway, killing snakes, and playing football (soccer) with village children bring my surroundings into a different perspective. The compound walls and trees had children climbing on them as they conquered the world. Class was held in a one room school house. The trek to church seemed like it lasted forever (maybe a quarter of a mile). And now, these are memories and stories tied to where another person lives— me.

The second thing that caught my attention is the impact of the work that has been carried on here. Previous missionaries have come and gone. Yet, there is the question, “Have I made a positive impact in this community sharing Christ’s love and helping nurture future generations to share the Gospel message?” This is even a question I ask myself from time to time as I live and work here.

For this missionary and his family, I saw that their work bore fruit, and the work by preceding and following missionaries also bore fruit. The church leaders that I interact with and highly respect are of the generation that were taught and instructed by this missionary and other missionaries. I was shown 20 year old pictures of men I know and I have a sense of awe. They were young. They had life and energy then, just as they do now. They saw and experienced much over the years to shape them into who they are today.

This world from 20 years ago still interacts with my world. These halls, these walls, and these trees have seen much. I am here thanks to the foundation laid down by previous generations of Ghanaians and expatriates working to bring Christ to the world. From the first time lips proclaimed Christ in this land through to the training of church leaders, from the formation of an orthography to the first verses being translated and published, from the dedication of the New Testament in 2014 to the present work continuing on today, we all are a part of something larger than we often realize. We are the instruments of God’s hands at work.

For decades, missionaries have come here through the prayers and financial partnership of thousands of people around the world. This continues today. I am here with you. We are here together, partaking in the grand story that God is writing from generation to generation. With Christ as our foundation, we are building into a dwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are building on those who have come before us, and we pray that others will continue to build on the work we do now.

The book of Joshua has now been sent to reviewers, the first drafts of Genesis and Judges are almost completed. 1 Samuel has been started, and Psalms will be consultant checked in September, Lord willing. I am also working on figuring out formatting for the lectionary, as well as a few other projects to aid in the use of distributing translated Scripture.

May God the Father who has created us all, God the Son who has redeemed us all, and God the Holy Spirit who brings us all to faith, continue to use us all in His loving work.

Confident in Christ,  
Michael Ersland

Correspondence:

[Michael.Ersland@LBT.org](mailto:Michael.Ersland@LBT.org)

Facebook: [Ersland Updates](https://www.facebook.com/ErslandUpdates)

[erslandministry.wordpress.com](http://erslandministry.wordpress.com)