

Welcome Pastor Rosy

Dear Friends,

I'd like to send a very blessed post-Easter greeting to all of you and prayers for blessings of a new life in the power of the Resurrection of Jesus.

In Ghana, some churches celebrate Easter with what is known as 'Easter Conventions', where whole congregations move out of their chapels or worship places into large areas that can accommodate huge numbers - most often in parks or stadiums - for at least THREE DAYS. Some churches start such gatherings on Thursday and go through Easter Sunday, when a huge 'closing service' is done to bring the event to an end.

The participating congregations of this event can come from other places, miles away from their usual places. The mainline churches (the Protestant Churches) normally would not do such a thing, though they may support an evangelical group to do an outreach/crusade. During such a crusade the Saturday is specifically set aside as 'Medical Evangelism' where the people in the community are invited to come for free screening and treatment of their ailments, or upon the diagnosis, refer them to hospitals for further investigations.

This Medical Evangelism affords the people free treatment and medication, with Christian doctors and nurses coming with medications and other equipment to provide this free health care. I participated in one of such on Saturday, April 15, at a place some one-hundred and fifteen miles from Saltpond. This place is called Senchi, about forty-two miles from Peki, where the former Mission Administrator, Dr. Elike Takyi lived. It was such an exciting and fulfilling occasion for me.

Now, I would very much like to take this opportunity to welcome PASTOR ROSY (Reverend Rosalina Rivera), who is joining First Lutheran Church on May 21 as the next Pastor, taking over from Pastor Jimmy (Reverend James Madsen), who is retiring later in the year.

This welcome is also coming from the mission village, the people of Akrampa, and from the pupils of the school. I have been following the church news, and the process of calling a pastor for FLC, so I have also been waiting to hear who the next pastor will be. Waiting to find out who would be the one who will partner with me to continue the mission work going on in Ghana on behalf of the congregation. On April 9, I got the news (from the church e-mail announcement) that Pastor Rosy has been called and will become the next Pastor. The knowledge that she's coming from Texas fills my mind with remembering my time in Texas in 2013. A very exciting and memorable trip (for medicals sponsored by FLC) that brings good feeling and joy.

Pastor Rosy, I am sure you will soon be getting your copy of this great *Lectern*, so let me say to you AKWAABA, which means 'Welcome' in the Akan dialect of the people of Akrampa, Ghana, our mission village.

As excited as you are about working with this great congregation, I am also excited, indeed, filled with great anticipation that we will meet in the near future! I am excited to begin a working relationship with you, as I did with your two predecessors, Pastor Woody and (soon to retire) Pastor Jimmy, a relationship that I continue to cherish to this day. Our work together in Ghana started with them, and that gave each of them a real personal interest and passion in the goings on of the mission, apart from being the pastors of the church that sponsors the work of God in Ghana.

Pastor Rosy, on behalf of myself, my family and the mission, it is my prayer that the Lord will bless your ministry such that you will not want to move anywhere else, but retire from First Lutheran just as Pastor Woody and Pastor Jimmy have done.

The Lord bless and keep you.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben Wilson