

The Mission Paper of Zion

Sionin Lähetykslehti  ARTICLES IN ENGLISH 2022 AUTUMN

Triune God – Father the Creator



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Cover image:
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The First Article: Creation

**I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER
ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN
AND EARTH. WHAT DOES THIS
MEAN?**

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
BRIEFLY PRESENTED (A ROUGH TRANSLATION OF
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CONVENTION OF THE CHURCH OF FINLAND IN 1948.)
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God the Father and His Work

9. ALMIGHTY GOD

- ◆ God is a spirit.
- ◆ God is the Almighty, Holy Lord, who dwells in the glory of heaven, but in His love is at the same time near us.
- ◆ "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in truth and spirit." (John 4:24)
- ◆ "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17: 1)
- ◆ "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isa. 6:3) "Wither shall I go from thy spirit? or wither shall I flee from thy presence?" (Ps. 139:7) "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8)



10. CREATOR

- ◆ God has created all that is, both the visible and invisible world, with His Word. Angels belong to the invisible world.
- ◆ "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Heb. 11:3)
- ◆ "We are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isa. 64:8)
- ◆ "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." (Col. 1:16)

11. HEAVENLY FATHER

- ◆ We call God our Father because He has created all and upholds all, but especially because in Jesus Christ He takes us as His children.
- ◆ "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." (Eph. 3:14, 15)
- ◆ Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed.

12. GOD SUSTAINS ALL

- ◆ All creatures receive what they need from God. His hand supports all that exists. Thus He sustains the world.
- ◆ "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them." (Matt. 6:26)
- ◆ "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou

openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing." (Ps. 145: 15, 16)

- ◆ "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power, not one faileth." (Isa. 40:26)

13. GOD LEADS ALL

- ◆ God, in His righteousness and love, leads the world and the fate of nations, as well as the stages of an individual's life.
- ◆ There is much suffering and anguish in the world. God's ways are unsearchable. Often suffering is the result of sin, but not even then can God's leading be made naught.
- ◆ The Lord is the Good Shepherd: Psalm 23
- ◆ "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." (Ps. 145:17) "I will lead them when they come with supplication." (Jer. 31:9)

17. MAN AND NATURE

- ◆ God made all things good and ordered all creatures to serve His purposes. He gave man the task of cultivating and protecting creation.
- ◆ "Thou madest him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet." (Ps. 8:5, 6)
- ◆ The Lord placed the earth with all its treasures in our hands / created nature with all its creatures for our good / Where e'er our eye looks there are abundant gifts / which the Lord of His grace offers to His created / All will end in its time, but grace will e'er abide. (Hymn 417:6)

TEXT: PEKKA KINNUNEN
TRANSLATION: B.A.

God – the Creator

In the Apostle's creed we say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth." Who is this God? A certain friend of mine brought an old household deity from Iraq which people in that area revered. It was a cell phone sized idol that was suitable for carrying about and fit nicely into the palm of your hand.

People have had and yet have many kinds of gods. They are so →



Gbailima Songa, Sierra Leone THOMAS YAMBASU

diverse because they are contrived according to people's own perceptions. Jeremy proclaims the spiritualities of his time: "according to the number of thy cities are thy gods." (Jer. 2:28)

In the commandments and throughout scriptures we are taught that we have only one God. We can ask, as Luther explains in his Large Catechism: What then is God? What does he do? How can he be exalted? How can he be presented and illustrated so that we could know him?

The Apostle's creed is Christianity's answer to this question. Luther explains that if you would ask from a small child: dear child, tell me, what is God like and what do you know of him, the child would answer: "My God is firstly a Father, who has created heaven and earth. Such is the only one I could consider God because there is no other who is able to create heaven and earth.

By no merits of our own

The Catechism has a long portion of its table of contents around the meaning of God's creation. We have taught in confirmation, and it is

good for us to recall personally: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him.

Paul captures the same thoughts this way: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Rom. 1:20-21)

All things are created in Christ

Some see the work of the Creator, and some do not. Even for those who see the vision is limited. Many incomprehensible facets belong to the work of creation. Attempts to understand the mysteries of God have brought conceptions which are not founded on the revelation of God.

Christians endeavor within the boundaries of what God has entrusted unto us. God has also sent his Son, who is the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, as the letter to the Hebrews records.

Regarding creation, it is said of Christ: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that

in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col. 1:15-18)

Faith reveals God

Faith in the revelation of God opens our understanding of the creation, redemption, and sanctification work of the triune God. Paul spoke of this on his mission trip to Athens' Areopagus: Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKONWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:22-23)

Yet today, personal repentance and faith opens understanding of God's works and care, temporal and eternal. The deepest essence of God's work remains this that we worship him in faith, are obedient to him and we would thank him for, and obtain, eternal life. I have heard many people that have received their sins forgiven in Jesus' name and blood say, "God is good and merciful." ■



Lamin Daranka, Gambia PERTTU KYLLONEN



Accra, Ghana JOSEPH KUSE

God is a renewer

TEXT: ANTTI KEMPPAINEN
TRANSLATION: A.H

According to the Bible, the renewing winds of God's creation continue to blow. The wonders of creation continue in nature's wonders and cycles. Life is his gift to us as well as the fact that he constantly maintains it. How does God want to renew us?

The miracle of renewal

The birth of living faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. When a person

believes the gospel, he receives the Holy Spirit in his heart. A great renewal takes place: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:17.)

The miracle of renewal is also told through Ezekiel: "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh." (Eze. 11:19.)

A look into the future

In the book of Isaiah, it is stated that God makes a path in the wilderness and streams in the desert (Isa. 43:19). What does clearing the path mean? If a person is lost in "the wilderness or in the mountains," he cannot see



Freetown, Sierra Leone MIIKA KOPPEROINEN



KwasiTenten, Ghana JIM FRANTTI

God's gifts in his life and no reason to thank them. The heart could also have hardened or to be embittered so that even trials do not make him humble.

The Israelites were also reprimanded for this: "But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; And you have been weary of Me, O Israel." (Is. 43:22). God calls us to turn our gaze up from thinking about the past to look at aspects that strengthen faith: "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? (Isa. 43:18–19.)

God can open the way

The saying about a rough life is true for many. We can believe that God will help

even in the most difficult situations. He can open the way forward. After all, he has promised a break rocks and level the rocks from the path of a fallen and sorrowful person because of his sins.

Even in these situations, through faith, one can be encouraged to look at the foundation of one's own salvation in the Lord Christ. He can deliver us from temptations and give life to those in trials, even hope that carries us through troubles.

Real renewal happens when the gospel of God's kingdom forgives unbelief and all sins. Then man is transferred from under the law to the participation of grace and dressed in festive garment. My dear travel friend, we are on our way to a wedding. (See Rev. 21:2.) ■

According to the Word of God, everything in the world created by God has its appointed time. The book of Ecclesiastes (3:1) says this thoroughly: “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

In the world created by God, everything is perishable. Everything and every being created by God has its appointed time. Man, the image of God, created as a being of eternity, also lives in the world for a time ordained by God.

The words of the book of Job comfort and at the same time pause a person to think: “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.” (Job. 14:5.)

The promise of God’s Word is fulfilled

Almighty God is the Lord of life and death. He is also the Lord of time. He knows the time of the world and of every person. Even before birth, each person’s days have been accounted for by our Creator (Ps. 139:16).

The world created by God’s word is perishable. The end of this world is tied to the second coming of Jesus.

The Gospels relate of Jesus speaking about his second coming and the end



Falaba, Sierra Leone MARTIN MBASSAY

God’s time is limited




Gborbu, Sierra Leone EASMOND MISSALIE



Kebbie Town, Sierra Leone MARTIN MBASSAY



Gbesebu, Sierra Leone DAVID JOJO



of the world. That day is known only by our Heavenly Father. Jesus says: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36).

A thousand years as one day

The apostle Peter writes about the "mockers" of the end times, people who question and make void the promise of God's Word about Christ's second coming. The apostle encourages the recipients of his letter and us as well: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;" (2 Pet. 3:9).

God is also patient with those who have left his kingdom. He wants everyone to turn to repentance in the time of grace.

Man does not understand God's concept of time through reason. Peter also wants to remind us, God's children of today, that God's understanding of time is different from man's.

Peter writes: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Pet. 3:8). Our understanding of millennia is only a short period of a few days in God's time. Likewise, our understanding of one day is a thousand years in God's time.

Today is a day of grace

God's word emphasizes above all the present moment, and its uniqueness. The apostle writes: "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:15).

Peter reminded the recipients of his letter about the people on the wilderness journey who were not obedient to God's word. They did not make it to the promised land. In the words of the apostle: "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." (Heb. 3:19).

According to the Bible, we are living in the last days of the world created by God. Jesus calls his own to follow the signs of the times. One grave sign is the abandoning of God's Word and its values.

As children of God's kingdom, we want above all to build our faith and our lives on the lasting foundation of Christ and God's Word. Let us encourage one another in faith and in love.

We want to be obedient to the Word of God and the voice of the Holy Spirit in God's congregation. Jesus calls each of his followers to be watchful in faith. When we put away our sins and burdens, we can in peace and hope wait for our Lord's return: "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20.) ■

Torbu, Sierra Leone,
MIIKA KOPPEROINEN

Kingdom of children

TEXT: SIRKKU KINNUNEN
TRANSLATION: ARI MIKKOLA

The three-year-old is sitting at the snack table, deep in thought. “Mom, heaven is a safe place,” the boy says suddenly. Then he rushes off to play, and the topic is left at that for the time being. The mother is left pondering her son’s words. She has a lot to learn from her son: That child, like all children, safely and trustingly believe. He has been spoken to about heaven, or maybe he has heard it spoken of at services or at day circle. The child has not remained to wonder if it is true, or if it can be true. The child has believed what he has heard, and that gives the child a sense of security. That child is a child of God, the mother thinks, the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. She prays that the boy could preserve his childhood faith.

In the Bible, a child is set forth as an example of a believer. It is said that the kingdom of God should be received, as a child receives it: equally curious,

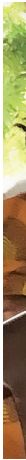


interested in all things and at the same time trusting and relying. A child is naturally curious. He asks but does not question. He doesn’t ask, did God truly say so? When the child receives an answer, he is satisfied with it, and is content.

A child believes even though he can’t see

Not all questions from children are simple, at least from the adults’ point of view: “Why do not everyone believe?” “Can a mother some times die before a child?” “What happens when the world ends?” Not all questions have answers, but the child is content to that which is. He is content with this, that God has not told people everything.

A preschooler is reading a children’s book on space. With his eyes glowing with enthusiasm, he runs to relate: “In the beginning of the world there was a big bang.” After a while, the boy wants to discuss the subject again: “Mom, before the big bang there was probably only God.”



Exactly!, the mother thinks, these matters are not difficult for a child's faith, they shouldn't be for an adult either. Things related of the supernatural are not a problem for a child. God, Jesus and angels are very real to the child's faith. Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the child like. Those who believe even though they do not see.

Responsibility for a child

Jesus warned: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it would be better for him that a millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). I might "offend" the child, lead him to fall. In the midst of the busy everyday life, I often fail to think about how much responsibility parents have been given over their children.

I teach my children through words and by my example. It is not indifferent, what I teach the child, because he takes my teaching seriously. A child has no life experience, he knows of nothing else but of that reality, in which he lives in. The child tries to the best of his ability to adapt to it. For example, a child living in a abusive or otherwise sick home thinks that this is a ordinary and normal life. A child's understanding of the world is built on what he has experienced. The teaching of the Bible is clear. Offending a child is never right, the punishment for it is severe.

The father and the preschooler are in the store. The child climbs to the end of the checkout counter to receive the purchases. His attention is drawn to the items of the customer next to him.

"Dad, that lady is not a believer because she's buying alcohol," relates the child. The father tries to change the subject, but the child wonders why father can't hear him, and repeats the same thing even louder. In the car, father and son discuss of what just happened. The father explains to the child that he was right, believers don't buy alcohol. However, you shouldn't say it out loud, even if you notice something like this. The lady might get angry. The father wants to protect his child.

It is important to teach the child how to treat un-believers. No one should be bullied, especially if the other person does not believe in the correct way. But if the occasion arises, we can relate of faith matters to others and even offer the gospel. If the child needs to be taught here, I also have something to learn from the child. A child believes openly, with his mouth open. He is not ashamed of his faith, neither does he know, that many people think differently.

Children can come

Jesus taught, that children should not be prevented from coming to Jesus. It doesn't matter, if there is noise and commotion during services, because the future is in the →

children. They need experiences from a very young age that it is good to be in the middle of God's kingdom. Children have a future in God's kingdom.

I try to look at my family, or a family of fifteen children, through the eyes of a person who does not know the life of large families. I understand that the life of a large family can seem incomprehensible. I remember how at one time my friends at school sincerely wondered, if I remembered all my siblings' names. However I know, that even though there are many children, each child is dear to the parents, and important just as they are.

Yes, I struggle with these matters as well. I ponder, do I have time to sufficiently notice the middle children or the easy and quiet child. Have I even remembered to speak with each of my children today, even these little ones under school age? You don't need to be able to do more than you have time and strength to handle, I think. After all, I am present, and available if needed. There are a lot of good moments, evening reading and shopping trips that only one of the children can join. There is much forgiveness and the little arms around ones neck, who don't remember forgiven matters.

Why do I want such a big family? In question is not the matter of choice. For me, this is a matter of faith. I want to live as the Bible teaches.

Research has been done about the large families in Northern Finland. The research results comfort me. Some time ago, a study was done on how a large family of siblings affects a child's well-being. It was noticed that growing up in the midst of a large family affects children in such a way, that they avoid behavioral and emotional disturbances more often than others. The protective effect of a large family was especially seen in boys. A large family gives them the opportunity to practice cooperation from an early age. The candy bag is divided equally, the smallest get first choice.

Children are gifts from God. Jesus taught: "Suffer the children to come unto me" (Mark 10:14). Children are a challenge. But children bring even more joy!: joy for mom and dad and joy to one another. They play together, sometimes they argue and then they take care of matters and then play again. When they grow up, they have the numbers of maybe ten siblings in their phone. There is always someone, to call, someone, you have known since childhood. ■

THE TEXT HAS BEEN SHORTENED. THE ORIGINAL TEXT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN SRK'S CURRENT AFFAIRS 2012 BOOK GOD'S KINGDOM IN THE CHANGING AGE.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Finding the Kingdom of God is the most important step

TEXT: JANI MUIKKU

TRANSLATION: MARKUS LOHI

Our minds and plans often get attached to temporal and earthy things. We ponder how we could support ourselves and our loved ones. Jesus knew these kinds of questions. His teachings still help us today in making plans.

Many of the followers of Jesus were in a modest social position. They had no property or power to fall back on. Some had even had to give up their small possessions when they left to follow Jesus (Mark 10:28–30).

Jesus noticed that his followers were concerned about temporal livelihood. Jesus encouraged them to trust in God’s guidance by emphasizing that God takes care of the birds and the flowers too. In →



Kunkunjan, Gambia PERTTU KYLLONEN



Aveyime, Ghana JIM FRANTTI

addition, Jesus urged to seek above all the Kingdom of God and his righteous will (Matthew 6:25–26,33).

“Will he not much more clothe you”

There is a contrast in Jesus’ proclamation of God’s care: Jesus compares birds and flowers to King Solomon. Solomon was famous for his wisdom and riches that God had given him (1 Kings 3:10-13; 10:23).

Today, people often measure and define themselves and each other by titles, wealth and fame. This is where our tendencies toward selfishness and greed come into view. One who has not earned or who has not achieved anything financially significant can be despised. A person like Salomon would be idealized today also. One who follows Jesus’ instructions would be treated like a flower that is admired

for a moment, but is soon thrown away.

Many of Jesus’ listeners probably wished they were wise, rich and famous like Solomon. It would be easy to build a life on these things. Instead of Solomon’s wisdom and wealth, Jesus tells us to look at the birds of the sky and the flowers of the field. Birds do not work for their living, but the Creator feeds them.

Solomon even in his glory was not clothed like a flower clothed by God. So when God gave Solomon glory and clothes the flowers, “will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:26–30.) It can also be difficult for us to trust in God’s care.

Searching for balance in life

A modest lifestyle is often considered as the other extreme to wealth



Otu Kodjo, Ghana JIM FRANTTI



Accra, Ghana JIM FRANTTI

and fame. The prophets of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus were models for the ascetic life that took shape in late antiquity and later for the monastic institution. In monasteries, instead of taking care of everyday things, life was consecrated to a life of prayer and worship of God (cf. Matt. 6:25).

In Lutheranism, it has been thought that instead of seclusion, a person can encounter God and serve Him in one's neighbors. God has created man to live with others (Genesis 2:18). However, we could learn from the modesty of monasteries. A person's life is valuable and a person deserves dignity even in a financially modest situation, such as poverty, old age or during time of unemployment or illness.

Today, the practice of meditative

religions has become more common. In these religions, a spiritual goal or balance is sought through meditation. Jesus' answer to the pursuit of balance is to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Finding the Kingdom of God

Jesus summarizes his speech about God's care with the idea of seeking God's kingdom and His righteous will. When a person finds the Kingdom of God, he gets into balance with God. According to Paul, the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy affected by the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

Jesus teaches that with the discovery of God's kingdom, man also receives all temporal needs from God (Matthew 6:33). It is safe to base life and plans on this advice. ■



*What
comes to
mind?*

REPENTANCE:

One's temporal wrong doings are forgiven, and one begins to follow Jesus Christ according to the teachings of the Bible.

THE GOSPEL:

Jesus's teachings of a good message and believing the good message which Jesus taught about.

SERVICES:

A group of people who believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ listening to a minister teaching.

THE COMMUNION OF BELIEVERS

A group of people who believe in Jesus Christ. They do things for the salvation of people and plan activities guided by the Holy Spirit.

Tala Village at Machakos county, Kenya MIIKA KOPPEROINEN

Believers in Kenya gather together for WhatsApp services every week

TEXT: STELLA KATUNGE MUTUKU

I found the kingdom of God in 2011 when my brother who lives in Kayole invited me to services held at Samuel Okola's home. At those services there were ministers from the USA and Finland and it was at those services that I received the grace of repentance.

I like to invite people to services and to "bluetooth services" at our home. Sometimes people might think that it's

weird that I am inviting them to services and sometimes people react negatively to the invitation. Our activities are different from other churches because we can hold services at homes, and they don't have to always be at a church. In other churches, people don't come and see what it is like in people's homes and check on how people are doing. In other churches all activities take place in a church building. At services no-one is obligated to participate in the collection or to make donations.

Sermons are sent to us via WhatsApp every week. Usually during weekends, we invite friends and neighbors over for services, but sometimes weekdays work out better for people. Listening to services is always a family event. Because services are often held in our homes, it has not been necessary to assign chores to people, but everyone can invite people to services.

I have attended services several times in the Kayole suburb in Nairobi. I get there by bus. There are more people there and often there is a local minister speaking. I have attended services there also when missionaries from Finland and the US have been speaking. I go to services because I love God and because I have been given the promise of salvation. That is why I want to listen to "bluetooth services". Listening to services strengthens

my faith. During the COVID-19 pandemic many people have given up their faith in the midst of difficulties. Some people have quit believing in a good God because of hunger. I have told them that God has given us life and that we must believe. God will help us survive. That is important because I know that if we keep faith until the end, we will receive a prize in heaven. We will get that prize if we stay with Christ.

I remember very well a time at services when I was having some difficulties. Believers sent my son and I a fish as a gift. It really meant a lot and I give thanks to God. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic we have received a Christmas gift. It has given us a lot of joy! Now that my husband and I are retired, I would like to visit believers also in other localities. I want to send warm greetings to believers in different countries. Us Kenyans want to send very many greetings to Finland! We want to remember you in our prayers. Sometimes also we have trials so I ask that also you would remember us in your prayers. I know that there is a God and that he hears our prayers. Prayers have helped me a lot and especially praying together with other believers has carried me to this day. Even though it is difficult to live here, God will take care of us. ■



SemeA, Kenya SAMUEL OKOLA



MIKA KOPPEROINEN



Kwesitenten, Ghana

HANNU JANHUNEN



Wellington, Sierra Leone
DESMOND STEVENS

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

[HTTPS://CATECHISM.CPH.ORG/EN/DAILY-PRAYERS.HTML](https://catechism.cph.org/en/daily-prayers.html)



PERTTUKYLONEN

Banjul choir, Gambia



MIKA KOPPEROINEN

Freetown, Sierra Leone