



Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopia is known world wide for its wonderful coffee and has many traditions surrounding this drink. In fact, it is a major supplier for Starbucks Coffee.

We are on Facebook!

Note: you do not have to belong to facebook to see this page. Just follow the link:

[Facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia)

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Christmas Greetings . . .

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:10-14 ESV)



As we prepare to celebrate, in just a few days, the glorious wonder of our Almighty God humbling Himself to become one of us so that He could take our place in winning victory over sin and death for us, we pray the peace He did win with His innocent suffering, death and resurrection may be yours, now and forever. We wish you a truly blessed Christmas and New Year.

The Stinnetts are Going to Ethiopia—Soli Deo Gloria!



We just received the wonderful news that we have been “green-lighted” to leave for Africa! Thanks be to God! The Lord has been gracious and we are sufficiently funded for the first year, so we are being deployed initially to Kenya for our East Africa orientation. We will be staying there until our work permits/visas come through. At that point, we will move to Ethiopia and begin our language training.

Our plane leaves on January 18th. We are very excited that there will be four missionary families traveling to Africa together. The Rabes (who will go on to teach in Ethiopia with us) and the Clausings and Sarah Kanoy (who will work in Kenya) will be on the journey with us. That means four LCMS missionary households with a grand total of 16 missionary kids will be on the same plane. Wow—should be a great trip!

Amharic—this is the language we will be learning. In this language, there are 126 letters. To say “Please speak more slowly,” you would say አባክህ ቀስ ብለህ ተናገር። (əbakəh qässə bəllāh tānagār) We’ll probably use this phrase often.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 pastors in the EECMY
- a smooth transition to Kenya and Ethiopia
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork to come through
- to be able to learn what we need to with humility and wisdom
- needed catechisms in Amharic

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the many churches, individuals and pastors we recently visited in Louisiana, Florida & Mississippi
- the Rabe family
- safe travels to Kenya and then to Ethiopia
- Gary Thies and Mission Central team

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and partner with us

What Does a Missionary Do During the Week? Part V

We are now getting ready to go to Ethiopia and packing and sorting our house. We will each take two checked suitcases, one carry-on and a personal item with us. Praise God for helping us to stay on track at this busy time and for all those who have been helping us to move. Things are falling into place rapidly as we are selling our cars, saying good-bye to friends and family, munching on Christmas cookies . . . and then packing some more!



Thank You Mission Central and Churches

"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!"
Psalm 126:3 NIV



Thank you to Mission Central run by Gary Thies for his tireless support and the dedicated work of their whole team. Thank you also to the individuals and churches who are continuing to support us. We were so thankful to receive the many generous gifts that enable us to now move to Ethiopia to start the work the Lord has for us there.

I (Johanna) had been talking to my sister. Looking at our funding, I had commented to her that "unless there was an act of God" that we wouldn't be leaving for Ethiopia until later in 2016. Then Gary Thies emailed telling us that a family had generously given a gift that was going to enable us to leave in January with the Rabes. Everyone was so excited, the girls were all crying and we sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." *God had indeed acted!* All thanks be to our gracious Lord.

Closing Thoughts . . . Our Lord is always working through His people. We remember the Ethiopian eunuch: "So Philip ran to him (the eunuch) and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (*Acts 8:30ff*) Thank you in Jesus' Name for your support of the work which God has laid before us.

In Service to Christ— Eric, Johanna, Rachael, Naomi & Luke

Missions Anyone?

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either:

Mission Central
 c/o Gary W. Thies
 40718 Highway E 16
 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105
Checks payable to:
 Mission Central
Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 P.O. Box 66861
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