



Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopian Airways is the oldest airline in Africa and has an excellent service record. They train and graduate about 50-60 male and female pilots a year.



LET US KNOW

We will be back in the United States in Summer of 2018. If your church would like to have us visit to share the work we are doing—please contact us! We would love to come.

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Teaching and Learning

Mekane Yesus Seminary—Addis Ababa:

Advent greetings to all of you! This month, I have added a new challenge to my workload – I have begun studying for my first courses in the PhD program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Because I am on the faculty for the MA program it is important for the seminary's accreditation if I have my doctorate (even though the original plan was for me to teach in the B.Th. program, both moving me to the MA program and starting the PhD studies were done at the request of the MYS Dean of Theology). Additionally, the advanced study will make me a better teacher as well. I chose the program at Ft. Wayne because I am able to complete that program through intensive week-long courses when the school here is on break. That way, my studies will not interfere with my teaching. It does mean I will be even busier. For instance, right now, I am trying to read eight different texts and write papers on them while I am teaching my courses here and advising students. Then, when the semester ends here for Christmas break, I will travel to Ft. Wayne for my classes and return to Addis just in time to start teaching the next semester. Even though it is a lot of work and I'll be separated from my family for a little over three and a half weeks, the fact that it will make me a better teacher to the students here and help the program succeed is worth the effort. I also seriously enjoy reading and studying theology, so I am grateful for the opportunity. As an added bonus, when I am back in the US to take classes during the week, I should be able to visit some of your congregations on the weekends. I am looking forward to that too. God's blessings to you this Advent!



Eric and Dr. Mark Rabe met with some of the Masters students at our house to have more time for discussion

Visit to the Ethiopian Aviation Academy



We were privileged to be able to visit the Ethiopian Aviation Academy with our homeschool group. The kids were able to be in the simulator as pilots were navigating and also in two other simulations of a crash-water landing. It was a very educational day as we were able to sit in cockpits, look in the belly of a plane and see the first Ethiopian plane ever flown. Ethiopia excels in this area as it trains and supplies pilots to over 52 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. The pride they take in their work was obvious as the tours were given.
(Rachael standing with the first plane in Ethiopia)

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. To say *Ethiopia* you would say “ኢትዮጵያ” as in (ee-tee-oh-pee-ah)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mogus—a 13 yo orphaned boy who needs a heart operation not available here
- the repairs the student dining hall needs after floods
- Ethiopia's people and leadership for peace and safety
- safe travel for students going home for Christmas
- wisdom and guidance for Dr. Bruk—the MYS president—leading the seminary
- Ethiopian food aid needed
- Eric's teaching and the start of his PhD work and travel

- continued language classes

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- a great session with the Master's Level I students at our house where ideas were exchanged and learned
- a wonderful Thanksgiving

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- a visit from our missionary friends from Kenya—Krista and Sidney Young
- opportunities for our children to thrive and grow
- the Rabe family
- God's faithfulness to us in His Word and Sacraments
- for developing friendships for our whole family

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



Clockwise from top left: a tortoise that lives on the seminary eating our flowers; Rachael trying on traditional dresses; Naomi about to race at our Track & Field day; Eric with the students; Luke and his friend Isak; Luke (on left) at crash simulation; Naomi receiving a yellow belt in Judo; Mogus—the boy who needs a heart operation; Luke & Johanna at the Aviation School



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:

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