



### Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopia is a landlocked country located in East Africa. It borders, Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan & Eritrea.



### LET US KNOW

We will be back in the United States in the 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

### Thesis Work & Easter Practices

The deadline for graduating students to complete and submit their thesis papers is very quickly approaching. Throughout the school year, I have been meeting with my advisees at least once a month to discuss their papers and make sure they were progressing. Now, I have met with each student at least once or twice a week for the last few weeks. I am meeting not only with my six advisees, but three other students have asked me to read through their thesis papers as well. I have been quite busy reading, correcting, giving suggestions...but it has been very rewarding seeing the students grow in their theological understanding and articulation on topics – all topics that they find their churches wrestling with, e.g alternative spiritualities tempting college students, questions on baptism, worship issues, ongoing Christian education for church members, challenges in urban evangelism. It has been both challenging and joyful to help these students gain a better understanding of their challenges and develop possible solutions to take back to their congregations and synods as they write these papers.

Additionally, we are just finishing Holy Week and will celebrate Easter tomorrow. The



*Children celebrate Easter in 2016*

Ethiopian churches are one week behind in their calendar, so MYS Easter break starts this week. The students will be home for Holy Week and Easter. Some of the EECMY churches will celebrate Maundy Thursday, many will not. Those that do, focus more on the “foot washing” than the Lord’s Supper. Good Friday will be celebrated in all, or at least most, churches with a solemn prayer service that will last at least four hours in length. Easter celebration will start Saturday evening at 8:00. The service will start with a very somber mood, focusing on the death of Christ. It will include many Scripture readings, prayers, choir songs, congregational singing, possibly a youth program/drama...lasting until 3:00 am, at which time, the whole service will change, black linens will be changed white, the mood will change and the service will focus on and celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The joyous celebration will last for an additional one or two hours. After that, the people will return home for family celebrations during the day. While this may seem quite different from the celebrations in the LCMS (especially the Easter service from 8pm-5am), still the salvation we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the main focus. May that same Easter joy strengthen and encourage you this Easter season. Christ is risen...He is risen indeed!

### Things to see in Addis . . .



We went to a mill or ወፍራጮ: ቤት (wef-choe bate) to buy teff in order to make fresh injera at home. It was a dusty experience. The teff costs about 28 ብር (birr) per kg for top quality which is about \$1.00 US/kg. They also have many other products such as lentils, chickpeas, legumes, wheat, berbere and other spices that they weigh, sift and grind for you with the milling machines. They let you touch everything too which was instructive and enjoyable.

**Amharic**—this is the language we are learning. To say, “Happy Easter—መልካም: ፋሂካ” (mel-kum fa-see-kah)





## What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Ethiopia in a State of Emergency, prayers for the people; new prime minister
- the EECMY during Holy Week and Easter
- Ethiopian food aid needed
- Eric as the school year accelerates toward the end
- continued language classes
- our retreat travel to Kenya
- Elsabet—an immigrant worker who wants to return to Ethiopia from Lebanon but can't get here after months of trying

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the spiritual growth of the students and the seriousness they give to their studies
- our children making steady progress in school this year
- Johanna expecting our fourth child—healthy baby

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- relative peace lately
- passing our 2nd year anniversary in Ethiopia
- the Rabe family
- His faithfulness to the Ethiopian refugees in Kenya receiving God's Word
- outreach to the Muslims and others with the message of Christ



*Clockwise from top left: visiting a mill to buy teff for injera—they are sifting the teff; friends of Johanna's visiting from Canada; Community Day at the seminary with Dr. Yacob giving the opening devotion; Naomi with Addis grinding coffee by hand; the Rabe family and our family with Deaconess Sandra Rhein (front right), Deaconess Tiffany Manor beside her (Deaf Ministry), Susan Kaiser (center front) with LBT and Jim Kaiser (center back); woman roasts coffee*



**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?"<sup>31</sup> 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](http://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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