

Did you know . . . ? The Danakil Depression in NE Ethiopia is one of the hottest places on earth at 96 degrees average annual temperature.



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The Evangel in Ethiopia

Change of Plans: Teaching on the Horizon

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—(Mekane Yesus Seminary) The month of May has brought some very big and exciting changes to our plans here at Mekane Yesus Seminary. We had originally planned to focus exclusively on language training until the early part of next year, and then to begin teaching classes for the seminary. Now, after discussions between the leaders of our two church bodies, it has been decided that it is best if we start working with MYS sooner. So, Rev. Rabe and I are starting to take on some of the duties as seminary faculty now. (We realize learning the national language is still important, so we will continue studying Amharic on a part-time basis.) We have both joined a faculty committee to rewrite the catalog for the Master of Theology Program. We are both also acting as readers for Thesis papers submitted some of the Masters students. We will begin teaching this year in the fall semester. I will be teaching two classes at the Master's level; Worship: Theory & Practice and Personal Development. Personal Development is a class that will focus on things like the pastor's personal devotional life and how that affects his ministry. In the spring semester, I will teach Advanced Hermeneutics (a Masters level course) and Exegetical Methods (a Bachelor level class). Those are both classes on how to rightly read and interpret the Bible.

There are many things about this decision that have me excited. First, I get to start teaching at the seminary much sooner than expected. Second, the classes assigned to Rev. Rabe and to me are all classes that will significantly help shape these students into Lutheran pastors and teachers. Third, by the end of the year, between the two of us, I think we will have taught students in all four years of the B.Th. program and both years of the MA program. We will have gotten to know and teach all of the student classes in the seminary. Our Lord has moved quickly to open the door for us to significantly impact the next generation of pastors, teachers and the Gospel message they will take out to the people of Ethiopia even sooner than we thought we could. Thanks be to God!



Engaging Ethiopia



The Anbesa Autobus is the yellow and red local bus with a picture on the side of an "Anbesa" or lion. There are sometimes people standing all the way down the steps and the doors have trouble shutting. The 12-seater white and blue minibus is a great way to get around for only a couple of birr as a cost (which would be between 10-15 cents). There are usually more than 12 people aboard, and as seen above, the young men hang out the window to announce where the next stop will be.

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. To just say "Hi!", we exchange greetings of "Peace". You would say **ሰላም**: (sälam) [peace] - informal.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- for our continued study of Amharic (part/fulltime)
- the setting of the curriculum for Mekane Yesus Seminary
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 pastors in the EECMY
- for the Sorensens and Youngs who will be joining our team in Ethiopia
- Eric and Dr. Rabe as they start preparing to teach
- needed Amharic catechisms
- Ethiopian hymnal project
- for good health: ongoing

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the team from St. Andrews, Cape Girardeau who led the retreat in Kenya
- settling in to Ethiopia

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and partner with us
- the leaders of the EECMY and LCMS who have a vision for this church that is amazing
- for Dr. Yacob Gondebo—Dean of Theology who works tirelessly on campus

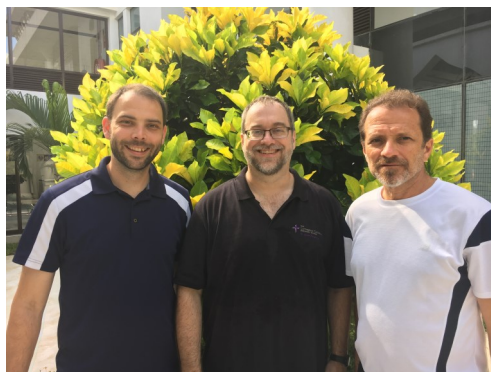
Missions Anyone?

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.”

Exploring Addis Ababa



Clockwise from top left: Our minibus broke down on the way up the mountain to Entoto to see the former Ethiopian palace and so we walked the last part of the way; a woman carrying sticks to sell from the top of the mountain that overlooks Addis Ababa; Rachael in traditional dress; Rachael and Badeg (one of our teachers) at the language school—we are now starting Phase 2; at the airport returning home after the All-Africa LCMS Missionary Retreat in Kenya; Christian Boehlke, Eric & Rev. Dan McMiller at the retreat



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

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