



Did you know . . . ?

Exports are almost entirely **agricultural** commodities, with coffee as the largest and most lucrative export, and its flower industry becoming a new source of revenue. You can buy a dozen long-stem roses for about \$4.00 USD.



The Evangel in Ethiopia

Catching Up in Addis and America

I'm sure you noticed that we did not put out a newsletter last month. We had so many things going on at that point that it slipped through the cracks. We apologize for that. This is what we were doing:

- Johanna and the children left Addis to come back on May 26th, so much of the last half of the month, she was very busy making travel plans, finishing the school year with the girls, packing up (including getting the house ready for a three month vacancy), getting ready for the baby to come, etc.
- During that same time, I was scheduling extra class times so that my Homiletics (preaching) class could all have time to preach sermons as part of their final exam (they also wrote essays on the Sermon as Gospel proclamation)...it was wonderful hearing my students clearly preaching the Gospel "for you". I also attended a special two-day seminar on the Oromo Traditional Religion and the revival it is seeing in Ethiopia, served as a reader (grader) for MA thesis papers from students that I did not advise and served on the panel evaluating the students' oral defense of their thesis work. All of this was in addition to my usual workload.
- After the family left, I stayed until June 5. During that time, I finished classes, gave final exams and papers, did all of my final grading and paperwork. It was exciting to see just how much my students had learned and changed over the time I was teaching them. I also had a few end of the school year meetings with the faculty and one-on-one with the dean, wrapping up and assessing the 2017-2018 school year and looking forward to next fall (I will be teaching Worship and two Hermeneutics (Bible interpretation classes), for a total of three classes). I also edited two chapters of work for the Dean of the Theology School (that gave the opportunity for interesting theological discussion), read four books and wrote two papers in advance of the PhD classes I took in the second half of June, and did the final preparations to close down the house for three months.
- Additionally, I had students visiting the house every single day to say goodbye. It felt like I was saying goodbye to family...and I was, these brothers and sisters in Christ are my family. As we said goodbye, they all expressed their gratitude for what they had learned from the LCMS, and were concerned that I would not come back in the fall. They know that they are leaving with a deeper understanding of (and greater confidence in) the Bible and a more solid Lutheran identity that they would not have had if the LCMS was not there to teach them. They want next year's students to have that as well, so some of the students (my MA practical class) told me they were in a program of fasting and prayer, praying that God would bring us back to Ethiopia and keep us there for many years. We are now in the U.S. visiting your churches, reporting back, thanking you for your support and asking you to keep partnering with us so that these students' prayer comes true.



Eric with his PhD class

Things to see during support raising . . .



This is a picture of the kids canoeing in a bayou in Louisiana with our host family, the Johnsons. They loved seeing the alligators and unusual birds and plants. We are so thankful during homeservice & support raising that we have the opportunity to explore the U.S. with the kids so that they learn about their own culture.

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. "Evil enters like a needle, but spreads like an oak tree," is an Ethiopian proverb. To say "evil" the word is ክፉ (ke-foo).





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the MYS Dean & president as they plan the academic year 2018-2019
- for peace in Ethiopia
- Johanna's pregnancy and the baby—due in mid July/early August
- safe travels as we head out to the West and then back east again
- continued improvement in our language training
- the new seminary students who are preparing to leave their families to study
- the Rabe family who is also travelling for support raising this summer

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- being reunited with family for the first time in 3 years
- Mom Stinnett who is travelling with us this summer to help us out

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the MYS students who graduated this last month and are going out to serve
- the many churches and individuals who have received us and support this work with prayer and finances
- the families hosting us

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."

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



Clockwise from top left: Alemayehu with his finished thesis; goodbye lunch with students; masters students; Eric & Luke; presentation at Hammond, LA with Rev. Boldt; southern district installation of officers; preaching at Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA; presenting at Harahan, LA with Rev. Lofthus



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

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

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