



Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopian children must learn both the country's official language of Amharic and their tribal tongue. They also have to have a good grasp of English since all school lessons after the age of 12 years old are now taught in English.



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The Evangel in Ethiopia

Kenya Continuing Education and School Days



E. Africa Theological Educators (from left) Rev. Eric Stinnett, Rev. Dr. Tom Aadland, Rev. Kou Seying, Rev. Charles Froh, Rev. Dr. Mark Rabe, Rev. Jon Clausing, John Wolf (Project Manager)

MYS—September was another very busy month. I completed Phase 2 of my language training and passed the assessment, so I have now started Phase 3. It contains more writing and formal grammar lessons, which means more homework for me...but it also means I am one step closer to fluency in Amharic! Johanna and Rachael are finishing Phase 2B and will be assessed next week to see if they move on to Phase 2C. Naomi is continuing her Amharic tutoring as well and is glad she doesn't have to worry about assessments at her age.

Classes are now in full swing and I am settling into a weekly routine. The classes are going well, I have 34 students in *Personal Development* and 14 in *Worship: Theory and Practice*. I also have 2 students I am advising on their Masters Thesis papers. They come to class well prepared, ask good questions and are even eager to continue theology discussions during break time. They are diligent, energetic and looking forward to taking their training back out to the churches when they graduate. I am blessed to be their teacher.

Finally, we had a Continuing Education retreat of the LCMS East Africa mission team. Dr. Kou Seying from Concordia Seminary, St Louis taught us about evangelizing and ministering to people in animistic religions like many of the traditional African folk religions. It was an excellent topic and well taught. I am grateful for the training and appreciate it being taught over a long weekend, so I didn't have to miss a classroom day of teaching. Another great month—Soli deo Gloria!

Engaging Ethiopia—Meskel

Addis Ababa—The month of September is an important month of celebrations in Ethiopia. Ethiopian New Year celebrations known as Enkutatash which falls on September 11 – or on the 12th in a leap year and *Meskel*. It has been celebrated in Ethiopia for over 1600 years and it is probably the most important festival after the Timkat (Epiphany).



Amharic—this is our language. To ask, “How much is this? You would say: **ስንት ነው ዋጋው?** (səntə nəw wagaw?) Useful when shopping :)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- our new MYS President Dr. Biruk who just started this month
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 new pastors for MYS
- for the needed work visas for professors who come to teach
- Eric and Dr. Rabe as they navigate teaching
- MYS as the accreditation team is visiting right now
- needed Amharic catechisms from LHF
- for improvement in our Amharic
- Ethiopian hymnal project
- for good health—stomach bugs and flu abound

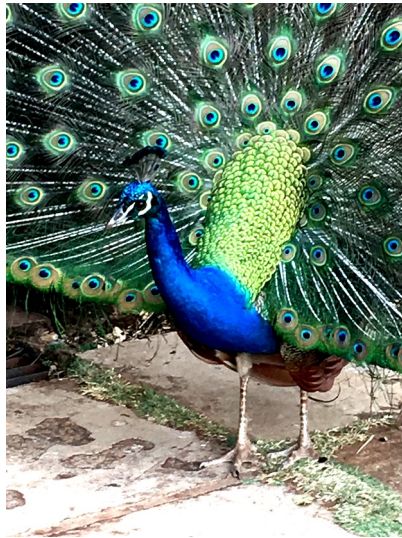
GIVE THANKS FOR:

- our Kenya Continuing Ed retreat and Dr. Kou Seying
- the health of our mission team members and recovery
- God's faithful people here

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 work together to the glory of God

Kenya Continuing Ed. & Happy New Year



Clockwise from top right: ; peacock in Kenya; New Year's celebration at a friend's house in Addis; Luke holding Rael (Kenya); out on a morning nature walk at our Continuing Ed. 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

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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