

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Wrapping Up Semesters and Presents



Above: Luke, Naomi and Rachael—blessed Christmas! (below) Our first Ethiopian Christmas play

Mekane Yesus Seminary—The first term of teaching is over. The last week of December was the final week of the semester here at Mekane Yesus Seminary. Ethiopians celebrate Christmas in January, so their school calendar runs a little later than ours. I spent the last two weeks of the month giving final exams, collecting the last papers and assignments and doing a lot of grading. While grading papers isn't all that exciting in itself, it has been very rewarding to see what the students have learned and how well they understand what they were taught.

The thing that struck me most this month, however, was talking to the men about their plans for Christmas break. The vast majority of my students are married, and most with children as well. The school has no housing for married students and the scholarships don't account for supporting a family. For most of my students, that means they have to leave their families behind when they come

to seminary. Most of them have not seen their families since they left home to come to MYS to start the semester. They now have two weeks to go home, visit their families and get back to MYS to start winter intensive courses. Every one of them has been missing their families and are excited to see them over the break.

The sacrifices these men are making, the commitment they have to studying God's Word and their desire to serve the church to their best ability is truly impressive. Please keep them and their families in your prayers throughout the New Year. Blessings to you this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

DID YOU KNOW...?

Mursi women in southern Ethiopia near the border of Sudan insert plates into their lips—a sign of beauty.



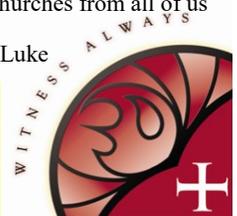
FACEBOOK: We are on Facebook! However, it is unavailable to us right now in Ethiopia. We'll start posting again when we are able to do so. Thank you for your continued prayers.

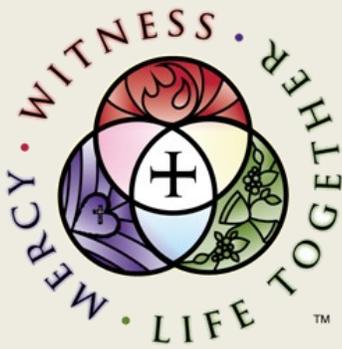
Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year



A blessed Christmas to all of you and Christ's Peace be with you. We are so thankful and humbled to be bringing the Lord's Word to the students/pastors here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the seminary. God has been full of grace towards us as we have celebrated our first Christmas here so far from home. Greetings in the name of the Christ Child from our home here in Ethiopia to you and all of your loved ones and to the churches from all of us here. With Joy in Christ,
Eric, Johanna, Rachael, Naomi & Luke

Amharic—this is our language. To give Christmas or New Year's greeting you would say: እንኳን አደረሰችሁ (ənkwan adärräsáčchu). It means "Even you have ushered in (the holiday)!"





What Have We Been Doing Lately?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- our country of Ethiopia
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 new pastors for MYS
- Eric and Dr. Rabe as they finish grading and start preparing for the next semester
- that God will continue to uphold our team in Addis
- needed Amharic catechisms from LHF
- steady improvement and understanding Amharic
- Ethiopian hymnal project
- continued good health

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- all of our students here who dedicate their time and lives to the study of God's eternal Word
- a happy Christmas for our mission team
- continued support for our work 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
- interim professors who come to teach



A visit to the CURE Hospital with Christmas joy; *bottom right* a coffee ceremony for Christmas



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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 40718 Highway E 16 **OR**
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