

## The Evangel in Ethiopia

### Explosive EECMY Growth

**Addis Ababa**—I have mentioned the growth rate of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus many times. They are growing at the rate of one million new members a year. They expect that growth rate to continue for at least the next ten years...that means ten million new members in the upcoming decade. To me, those numbers are staggering. To some, they appear to be unrealistic, maybe wishful thinking. But they are not. These numbers are actually being reached—this is reality in the EECMY.

This is happening, in part, because outreach is a central focus for them and they are very purposeful and intentional in carrying it out. As one point, when they send a pastor into a new area, they also send out trained Evangelists with him. These men and women work with the pastor to specifically reach out to the community, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and connecting them with the pastor and new mission start. Evangelists are also working with the established churches in the same way. Future evangelists learn side-by-side with the pastoral students at the seminary, and many of them will be students in the classes I am being sent to teach. It will truly be a privilege and honor to help train these men and women and send them out.

One more point on the growth rate, the EECMY has over 7.4 million members. If each member shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ with only one neighbor each year, in five years, that would be just under 40 million people. If only about a fourth of them were brought to faith, that would be about ten million new believers.

These new believers will need churches and pastors. Again, what a joy it is for us in the LCMS to be able to help train the pastors who will shepherd this new large flock. Thank you for partnering with us to help make it possible.



### Addis Ababa

Did you know . . .

**Addis Ababa is at 7,726 feet altitude, which makes it the third highest capital in the world. It is the diplomatic capital of Africa. Coffee was discovered in Ethiopia.**

We are on Facebook!

Note: you do not have to belong to facebook to see this page. Just follow the link:

[Facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia)

### What Does a Missionary Do During the Week? Part I

When a missionary is first called to foreign missions, the first thing he or she does (with the whole family) is attend a two-week orientation in St. Louis for training. At the end of that time, we begin to build a network by speaking to congregations and individuals to ask them to partner with us for the long term so that the Lord's work may be sustained with prayer, encouragement and financial support. This generally takes 6 to 10 months and involves a lot of travelling. We have been in Montana, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Ontario, Mississippi & Alabama in the last few months. We are scheduled to go to New York, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Florida and more to come as Eric talks with congregations. The work and travel require patience with one another as all routine is routinely disrupted. But it has been a huge blessing to be able to tell so many people about what God is doing in Ethiopia!





### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- that the Lord will meet the need to train thousands of pastors in the EECMY
- a smooth transition to Ethiopia
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork
- our children as they prepare to leave all that they are familiar with
- needed catechisms and Bibles

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

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- pastors who are faithful to God's Word
- the Rabe family
- safe travels during network and support building

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and partner with us

**Amharic**—this is the language we will be learning. This is how you would say “Good Morning!” I'ndemin aderik? Or as it is written in Amharic: እንደምን አደርህ?

## Kids Corner

**Interstate 12, LA**—This conversation took place on the road, where we often are these days. Rachael asked if language school was going to be 8-hours each day. “Because if it is, I would be happy to give up math, reading, spelling and language so that I could learn Amharic mom!” I literally laughed out loud.

**Lone Elm, MO**—Eric was giving a presentation. As we were going to be in the car for another 9 hours afterwards, I told the kids to go out and play. Near the end of the presentation, I see Naomi shove Luke through the back door and she took off. He was soaked from head to toe and was so wet, that his shoes were squeaking as he walked across the quiet hall.

As I took him outside to the car and changed him into dry clothes, Naomi explained that he had gotten his hands dirty, and that all she wanted to do was clean him up under the old water pump out back. She stood him directly under the faucet and helped him get clean. The water from that pump came out with great force—he never saw it coming!



**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:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include “Stinnett-Ethiopia” in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/stinnett](http://lcms.org/stinnett).