



Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopia has been a country since 980 BC. That means, that she is coming up on her 3,000th birthday in 2020! It serves as a symbol of independence in Africa and has the United Nations HQ located in Addis Ababa.



FACEBOOK:

We are on Facebook, although consistent internet is a struggle. See our archived newsletters and feel free to share the work God is doing here with others. God is good!

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Multitude of Master's Classes



Eric and Tekele (one of the Master's II students) at a building site of a new EECMY church that will seat about 5000 people in western Ethiopia.

With the move from August to September, the fall semester is now in full swing and it has been a busy month. Both my teaching and advising load has doubled from last fall. I am teaching four classes at the MA level; *Personal Development*, *Worship: Theory and Practice*, *Theology and Doctrine of Sacraments*, and *Practical Theology*. *Personal Development* and *Worship: Theory and Practice* are both classes I taught last year, so this time around, I feel better prepared to anticipate the areas where the students will have questions or difficulty. The *Sacraments* class is a new class just added to the curriculum this year. I am enjoying the experience of designing a new class from the ground up...especially one on such an important subject. The *Practical Theology* class was a surprise.

Someone else was scheduled to teach it, but the week before classes started, he found out he was leaving, so I was asked to take the class on five days' notice. This class addresses practical issues and concerns in the parish in areas of worship, education, counselling ethics, etc. Thankfully, my years in the parish gave me plenty of practical experience to draw on (even if much of it needs to be carefully translated to another cultural context).

In addition to my classes, I also have four students I am advising on their Masters Thesis papers and one that I am advising on his BTh Thesis paper. I will meet with each student for about an hour every couple of weeks to assess and give guidance on their research work and writing. The students I have been assigned are academically strong and have chosen interesting topics to research, so I am looking forward to spending the year working with them.

If the first month is an accurate indicator (and I believe it is) this will be a very good year. In the second-year class I can see a theological maturity and depth of understanding that they didn't have as first-year students. The new first-year students are eager to learn and already asking good questions. The students are all focused, hardworking and committed to being the best workers they can for the church. I pray with confidence that they will be.

Happy New Year and Meskel



Happy New Year! It is now the year 2010 here in Ethiopia. Followed closely by Meskel, which is the Orthodox celebration of the "true finding of the cross", these two holidays dominate September in Ethiopian culture. There is much celebrating, food, dancing, and visiting going on between family and friends. We were also told that in the Southern Nations people of Ethiopia, that this often means 3 weeks of holiday and visiting. Many people choose to get married at this time. For some, this will be the one time in the whole year when they can afford to eat meat.

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. To say: "Okay!" you would say አሂ (i-shee). It also commonly used to soothe children when they fall or are crying.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- continued language classes
- Eric's classes—the schedule changed and he has four Master's level classes
- the student dining hall which is flooded on campus
- Ethiopia's peace and safety
- funding for visiting professors to teach here at MYS
- wisdom in serving the people of God here at the MYS
- the Seminary faculty—10 members are on leave right now

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- healing for Luke and Johanna—we are better!
- the many encouraging emails we received this last month
- the new Master's I students who are studying at MYS

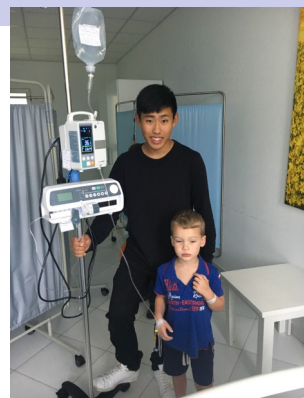
PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the many opportunities to tell others about God
- beautiful celebrations for the Ethiopian New Year
- the Rabe family here with us in Ethiopia
- our family continuing to be content here in Ethiopia

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



Clockwise from top left: woman lighting torch for Meskel; Rachael and Addis on the Ethiopian New Year (Sept. 11); Naomi and friends roasting marshmallows on her birthday; Luke at the hospital with his friend Noah; Johanna and some of the doulas she's teaching; flooding in our backyard that threatened the house due to heavy rains



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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