



Did you know . . . ?

Drought is a major hazard affecting crop and livestock production in parts of Ethiopia right now — 7.7 million people have been identified as needing emergency food aid here. (photo: Michael Tewelde/World Food Program)



LET US KNOW

We will be back in the United States in Summer of 2018. If your church would like to have us visit to share the work we are doing—please contact us! We would love to come.

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Good Theological Problems

Mekane Yesus Seminary, Addis Ababa—

Now that I am half way through the semester (time certainly is flying by quickly) I have come to realize that I have a problem with my MA 1 class, but it is the kind of problem I suspect every teacher wishes to have – my students are almost too eager to learn. They keep asking so many questions, very good questions, questions that are theologically deep and take quite a bit of time to answer, questions that are very relevant, questions that need to be worked through and answered, questions that are important enough that I cannot put them off or ignore them...but questions that are not necessarily fully on the topic of the lecture that I am trying to give. The result is that we are constantly discussing and debating good theology, but I am falling further and further behind in my syllabus.



The MYS Master's II practical class with Eric in our front yard after they joined us for lunch at the house.

I was discussing this with Rev. Mark Rabe and Johanna this week and we came up with a solution, starting this week, I am inviting the class to my house Sunday afternoon to discuss their “off topic” theological questions. If this first meeting is a success, I may continue it on either a weekly or bi-weekly basis. I am looking forward to this. We have had students to the house before for fellowship and discussion, but it has always been very informal and the topics raised spontaneously. This will be the first time the discussion is planned in advance and intended to be academically serious. If all goes well, this will allow me to get my lectures back on schedule and still address all the students’ theological questions with the depth and detail they deserve. As an added bonus, sitting around the house, drinking coffee and eating snacks together while we talk can only serve to strengthen the personal relationships with each of the students. All in all, I think it is a good answer to a very good problem.

500th Reformation in Addis Ababa



The festival of Reformation was celebrated here in Ethiopia this past Sunday. The banner to the far left has the beautiful “solos” in Amharic. Saved by grace alone, through faith alone as revealed to us in Scripture alone. (It was really great to be able to read this banner in Amharic and understand it!) The bottom line says, “It is still all about Jesus.” The mother church that we attended in Addis, had standing room only and Dr. Berhanu (General Secretary) preached after Dr. Yonas (President of the EECMY) spoke. Soli deo Gloria!

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. To say “Reformation” you would say, መታደስ (meh-ta-des).





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- continued language classes
- the Ethiopian drought and the food/aid needed
- the student dining hall which is damaged by floods
- Ethiopia's people for peace and safety
- funding for visiting professors to teach here at MYS
- wisdom in serving the people of God here at the MYS
- Eric's teaching with all of his classes and for balance of the teaching
- healing for Luke

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the new Master's Level I students who are studying at MYS and their thirst for knowledge
- Rev. Brent Smith from Mission Central visiting us in our home and for supporting & praying with us

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the continuing education meeting of the East Africa LCMS missionary team
- beautiful celebrations for the 500th Reformation
- the Rabe family
- David & Radka Fiala & Taylor Baumeister for loving our kids in Tanzania

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



Clockwise from top left: Eric greeting one of his students at our house; younger kids group at the continuing education in Tanzania; Luke doing a VBS craft; a lovely group of missionary girls (Rachael is second from left, Naomi on the far right); the LCMS East Africa missionaries; Rev. Brent Smith (from Mission Central) stayed with us in Addis



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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