



Did you know . . . ?



Traditionally, Ethiopian parents and children do not share a last name. Most children take their father's first name as their middle name, and grandfather's name as their last name.

FACEBOOK: We are on Facebook again. See our archived newsletters there and feel free to share the work God is doing here with others. God is good!

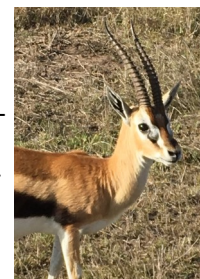
The Evangel in Ethiopia

Troubling Times—Why the Gospel is Needed

Addis Ababa—This week, we were reminded again of the importance of the work our Lord has sent us here to do. Over the last few days we have had many conversations with a young widowed mother with two daughters who is unable to leave our campus. If she leaves the safety of our compound, she will most probably be murdered.

Even though she is Lutheran, she comes from a part of Ethiopia that has very little Christianity. Most people in that area still practice a pagan spiritist religion. The people of her community do not know the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, so they do not share love and forgiveness with one another. This young lady's brother killed a man (I don't know the details of the crime, but I know he is in jail), and now the victim's family wants revenge. They have targeted her and her daughters to be killed and have relatives here in the city waiting for them to leave the campus. I know this sounds like something out of a B-grade movie, but the facts of the story have been verified for us by church leaders from that area. And they tell us, time will never heal those wounds or diminish that anger. She can never go home again.

The only thing that can heal these hearts and overcome the darkness of that pagan hatred is the light and love of Jesus Christ. This lady reminds us of just how important it is for us to help the EECMY train pastors and evangelists to share the Good News in these areas that do not know Jesus yet. By the grace of our Lord, perhaps one day soon, we will be able to send men to build up the church in that region and bring God's powerful Gospel of salvation to turn those lives around. It truly is a matter of life and death, not just the temporal life of this young mother and her daughters, but for the eternal life of the souls in that entire area. Please pray for this young lady, her family, the other families involved in this story and the church in that area. Please pray also for our work here, that we may train and raise up the men who can go and take the Gospel message that can give this story not only a happy ending, but a blessed one.



Thomson's gazelle we saw in Kenya at our Continuing Ed retreat—excellent topic given on "How to talk to Muslims About Christ" given by Dr. Abjar who grew up as a Christian in Syria



Engaging Ethiopia



Timket (Amharic: ተጾቀት which means "baptism") is the **Ethiopian** Orthodox celebration of Epiphany. **Timket** celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River which was January 19th this year. Huge crowds follow a replica of the Ark of the Covenant (in the covered tent) with singing and dancing in the streets. This particular procession was right in front of the seminary. The streets were shut down as thousands of people paraded by in front of us.

Amharic—this is our language. To ask in a polite way where someone is from, you would say: እርስዎ ከየት ናት? (ərswo käyät not?)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the EECMY students as they have returned for another semester
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 new pastors for MYS
- Eric and Dr. Rabe as they start their new semester
- that God will continue to uphold our team's health
- spiritual wisdom and discernment
- the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI)
- new EECMY President

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- all of our students here who dedicate their time and lives to the study of God's eternal Word
- a great EECMY convention
- our fellow missionaries: the Rabe & Young Families

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 - Dr. Schumacher here until June

What Have We Been Doing Lately?



From top right: Naomi examining a piece of a termite mound with our guide; a zebra; Eric leading a service; children we met in Kenya when we stopped for car trouble; EECMY General Assembly meeting on campus last week-visitors from all of Ethiopia

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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