

## The Evangel in Ethiopia

### LCMS Music and Worship Conference in Addis Ababa

**Gudina Tumsa**—In addition to my usual teaching schedule this month, I had the added privilege of taking part in a worship conference for the pastors of the EECMY. Entitled *The Treasure of Lutheran Liturgy and Hymnody* the conference discussed the history, structure, and theology of worship and liturgy, as well as the history of Ethiopian church music, and hymnody in general. The conference was attended by about 100 pastors and other church leaders from around the country. The three conference days were packed with presentations from 8:30am to 5:30pm. The participants stayed engaged the whole time and even coffee breaks and lunch discussion centered on worship. Most of the discussion and questions focused on the issue of incorporating cultural aspects of music and movement into Lutheran worship. Based on feedback, the conference was a big success.

For me, the conference was a real high point for the month, not only because I had the opportunity to teach and help another group of EECMY pastors, but also because I had the joy of working with the other two speakers for the conference, Dr. Tim Quill from the Fort Wayne seminary and Deaconess Sandra Rhein of the LCMS Hymnal Projects. Dr. Quill was one of my professors when I went to seminary and Sandra has become a good friend of the family through her many visits to Addis as she works with the EECMY on the development of their new hymnal. Even though it was a lot of work, the whole time, I felt like I was hanging out with friends and the time flew by very quickly. What a blessing to be able to help our Ethiopian brothers and sisters in Christ understand how to use worship to point people to Christ and deliver the Gospel.

### Engaging Ethiopia—Men's Traditional Clothing



**Amharic**—this is our language. To say: “Happy Easter”, you would say: መልካም፡ፋሲካ። (mälkam fasika)

*Left to right: Prof. Eric Stinnett, Girum - our translator, Deaconess Sandra Rhein and Dr. Tim Quill at the Music and Worship Conference March 17-19th; Eric teaching at the conference; pastors and leaders from all over Ethiopia travelled to attend the conference*



### Did you know . . . ?

The Great Rift Valley runs through Ethiopia from the northeast to the south of the country and is the only physical feature of Africa that is visible from space.



**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!







### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the many people affected by the dump landslide
- the Mekane Yesus Seminary students as they have just completed midterms
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 new pastors for MYS
- Eric and Dr. Rabe teaching, advising Masters students and grading
- travel to Kenya for retreat
- peace in Ethiopia as the State of Emergency is continuing for 4 more months
- Rev. Trump & McMiller's visit here and meetings

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- passing our language test and starting a new level
- well-attended worship conference and safe travels
- freedom to proclaim the Gospel & biblical teachings

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- all who uphold the Lord's work here with prayer and support
- the leaders of the EECMY and LCMS who work together to the glory of God
- our friend's continued safety here at MYS
- good health last month

### 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."

## What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



*Clockwise from top left: After the conference, we visited the Bale Mountains—Luke was so proud to be on a horse; serene Lake Hawassa wildlife; carts are the main way of transportation in the Oromo region for many people; women sheltering under their umbrellas as rain pummels the Saturday market in Dodola; a visit to Entoto mountain and the Emperor's palace with Grandma and Deaconess Rhein*



**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*

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either:

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