



Addis Ababa

Did you know . . .

Addis Ababa means, "New Flower" in Amharic. It is the capital city of Ethiopia. Mekane Yesus Seminary, where we will work and live, is located in Addis Ababa. Population: 3.4 million—wow!

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The Evangel in Ethiopia



Rev. Mark Rabe & Rev. Eric Stinnett visit MYS

Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia -From its very beginning, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) saw the need for theologically well trained pastors and made the establishment of Mekane Yesus Seminary a high priority. From its humble beginnings in 1960, that seminary is still at the heart of EECMY theological education today, having graduated about 3000 students in its 55 year history. Presently, MYS serves over 250 residential students, offering both Bachelors and Masters of Theology degrees. In addition to its residential students, MYS also provides theological Education by Extension, training many more students as pastors and lay evangelists.

MYS needs twenty full time faculty members to be fully staffed but they currently have only about a dozen (and some are part-time). Furthermore, the dramatic growth rate of the church is creating the need for thousands more pastors.

The LCMS has been helping meet the need for theological educators by sending teachers on temporary assignments to teach intensive classes, and we will continue to do that. I am excited to be part of the next step in this partnership between our two churches as the LCMS is sending Rev. Mark Rabe and me as Theological Educators with long-term placement to MYS. I pray that our Lord will continue to bless the efforts of our two church bodies as we work together to meet the educational needs of the EECMY. I pray also that each of our churches will be blessed by the strengths of the other.

What's Been Happening Lately . . . ?

May and the beginning of June have been quite busy. We have:

- established a new home in Louisiana
- upgraded phones and computers as we furnished and set up a new office
- began networking and making new contacts at the Southern District Circuit #4 Meeting and Southern District Convention
- began giving mission presentations to congregations in Louisiana



Southern District Convention Opening Service





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- a smooth transition to Ethiopia
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork
- safe travels during network and support building

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the Book of Concord translated to Amharic and given to the pastors
- pastors who are faithful to God's Word
- the Rabe family

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

Amharic—this is the language we will be learning. To say, “My name is . . .”, you would say, “Se'mea no". Written in Amharic it looks like this: የኔ ስም ... ነው።

Meeting our Fellow Missionaries

On our way to the Southern District Convention, we went to Montgomery, Alabama and met the Rabes. They are also going to Ethiopia as missionaries. What a joy to meet the family who will be serving the Lord with us!



The Rabe and Stinnett children meet for the first time: Back row left to right: Julianna, Gabriella, Noah, Rachael; Front left: Matthias and Naomi



We continued on to Selma, Alabama for the Southern District Convention. Besides attending the convention, we also took advantage of our location and learned about the civil rights history. Many LCMS pastors and laypeople were involved in this movement promoting the equality of all people.

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

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:

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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Stinnett-Ethiopia.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/stinnett.