

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Holistic Ministry Contributes to EECMY Growth

When giving presentations, I am often asked the reason for the dramatic rate of growth in the Ethiopian Lutheran Church (EECMY). There are many factors that impact that growth, including the EECMY's emphasis on theological education, their efforts at providing the Bible, catechism and other Christian literature in the languages of the people, the effect of persecution on the church, etc.

One factor that should resonate with members of the LCMS is the EECMY's emphasis on "*Holistic Ministry*" or ministry to the whole person. We don't use this phrase in the LCMS, but it is very similar to our emphasis on Witness, Mercy and Life Together. We understand that faith produces its fruits, that love of God and love of neighbor go together. We see Jesus, in His earthly ministry, combine the call to repentance and Gospel proclamation with physical healing. He not only teaches the 5000, He provides food for their bodies as well. He sends out His apostles with authority to proclaim the Gospel and forgive sins, and he also gives them authority to heal. So, we combine our Witness (Gospel proclamation, Word & Sacrament ministry) with Mercy (acts of service to help those with needs for this body and life).

This is what the EECMY means by *Holistic Ministry*; Gospel proclamation working side-by-side with social work or development programs to meet the needs of the whole person, both soul and body. For the Ethiopian Lutherans, social or development service is

not just a bait and switch method to get people in the door, nor is it a stand-alone goal by itself. Instead, love of God leads to love of neighbor that necessitates sharing the Gospel, but also leads to genuinely caring about the neighbor's earthly needs as well. So, the church's medical services also provide pastoral care. Their literacy programs use the Bible as a reading text, etc. This biblical focus on serving the need of both soul and body is one of the reasons often cited for the EECMY's growth rate, as it connects people in need with their loving Savior and his church.



Ethiopia has 13 months/year. . .
Like the Egyptian Copts, Ethiopian calendars have a year of 13 months. The first 12 months have 30 days each, and the 13th month has 5 days (or 6 days in leap year.) Pagumiene is the name of the 13th month.

We are on Facebook!
 Note: you do not have to belong to facebook to see this page. Just follow the link:
[Facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia)

Amharic—this is the language we will be learning. In this language, there are 126 letters. To say "Have a nice day!" you would say, "መልካም ቀን ይሁንላችሁ።" (me'elkam ken yihunilachehu) .





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- that the Lord will meet the need to train thousands of pastors in the EECMY
- a smooth transition to Ethiopia
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork
- to be able to learn what we need to with humility and wisdom
- needed catechisms and Bibles
- a year in which the Gospel is spread in Ethiopia

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the many churches who have welcomed us
- pastors who are faithful to God's Word
- the Rabe family
- safe travels during network and support building

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

What Does a Missionary Do During the Week? Part III

Applying for work visas and permits have also been a rigorous exercise. In addition to getting passports for the family, there is a stack of paperwork to be filled out and sent off to various agencies. Here is an example of the path for just one document. First, we needed a new marriage certificate. It then needed to be notarized. Next we sent it to the provincial level to be authenticated by the appropriate authorities (we were married in Canada). Then it was sent to the federal level to be authenticated with the proper paperwork and stamps. At each level more forms needed to be filled out. It is now sitting in a file that is slowly gathering the needed diplomas, birth certificates, passports that are each being treated to this process. When all of the documents have reached and passed the federal level of authentication, the entire folder will go with us to Ethiopia where we will hand it all over to the government there and pray for a work visa/permit to be issued.

Thank You to the Churches



Lisa Ellingworth and Johanna visiting outside & soaking up the fall sunshine



In Pawling, NY the kids had a wonderful time playing with the Ellingworth girls

Thank you to the many churches that have hosted us over the last few months. It has been such a long road to travel so far, but we have often thanked God for the privilege of meeting so many brothers and sisters in Christ. While it has been great for us to share with you, we have also met many who we now also support with prayers too. Thank you for allowing us to become part of your lives.

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:

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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include "Stinnett-Ethiopia" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/stinnett.