



### Did you know . . . ?



Ethiopia has about 100,000 vehicles total in the whole country. That translates to about 1 car:1,000 people and 79% of the cars are in Addis Ababa.

**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

### February Fellowship/Seminary Semester Started

**Addis Ababa**—It's hard to believe another month has gone by. February has been quite busy. The new semester has started and I am teaching three classes. I am teaching in both the BTh and MA programs this time and have many new students to get to know. I am teaching two classes: hermeneutics and exegetical methods (methods to properly read and interpret the Bible) and am very excited to be able to influence my students at such a fundamental level. I am also teaching a class on the Pastor's Devotional Life (a repeat of the class I taught last semester). In addition to teaching, I am also a student as Johanna and I are continuing in Amharic language classes in the afternoons. On a personal level, we had the joy of celebrating both Johanna's and Rachael's birthdays this month.



*Above: a Sunday afternoon at a student's house with church leaders and fellowship*

Along with our regularly scheduled activities, we also try to spend as much time as we can socializing with members of the church and seminary community to build and strengthen those personal relationships. Often times, they provide unexpected opportunities. Let me give you one example. Two weeks ago one of my students invited us to have dinner at his house Sunday afternoon. We thought it would be a wonderful chance to meet his family, see how he lived and strengthen the relationship with my student. It turned out to be much more than that. This student works in his church's main office in pastoral formation and education. He invited around twenty church leaders (mostly evangelists, Bible study leaders and pastors) to join us. After we ate, he asked me to teach them on the topic of God's Word and Bible study. That afternoon, I was able to talk with them about the power and efficacy of God's Word and the importance of clear Gospel proclamation. It was a wonderful afternoon of introductions, injera and Scripture.

### Engaging Ethiopia—Women's Traditional Clothing



The **habesha kemis** (ሐበሻ habesha which means "Ethiopian" and ቀጫኔ kemis which means "tunic or dress") is the traditional attire of Ethiopian women. The ankle length or calf length dress is usually worn by Ethiopian women at formal events. Traditionally it is white. Many women also wrap a shawl called a "netela" around the formal dress. **Netela** (ነጥላ) is a handmade scarf-like cloth made of cotton. It is very thin and delicate, with the texture of gauze, worn by the women of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The women pictured here are attending a wedding in Oromia.

**Amharic**—this is our language. To say: "One language is never enough", it would be: አንድ፡ቋንቋ፡ብቻ፡በቂ፡አይደለም፡፡ (and qwanqa bəča bāqi aydällām).





### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the EECMY students as they have started another semester
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 new pastors for MYS
- Eric and Dr. Rabe teaching
- that God will continue to uphold our team's health
- our friend who is in danger (see January's newsletter)
- the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI)
- Eric and Johanna's next language test on 3/7/2017
- the school cafeteria closing
- the LCMS music and worship conference in March

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- all of our students here who spend much time travelling to study God's Word
- safety for our friend and her children in danger
- 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

## What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



From top left: Naomi holding our new kitten named FiQir (Love in English); a woman carrying vegetables to sell; a lady at the top of the Entoto mountain with a Harrod's bag (wow!); Eric and I after getting bookshelves for his office; a girl in traditional dress for a wedding



**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*

### 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."

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

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