



## Did you know . . . ?

Kitfo is a traditional serving of raw, ground beef mixed with mitmita and spiced butter. It is eaten with injera instead of a bun.



## LET US KNOW

We will be back in the United States in the Summer of 2018. If your church would like to have us visit to share the work we are doing—please contact us! We would love to come.

## The Evangel in Ethiopia

### Teaching and Learning

So much has happened since we last wrote to you that it is hard to even know where to begin or what to focus on. At the end of December/beginning of January, I finished the fall semester, graded final exams and papers and turned in final grades just in time to leave for my trip to the US. My time there was very busy and put to good use. On the week-ends, I was able to visit three congregations and one circuit Mission Festival to present on the work being done here in Ethiopia. During the weeks, I attended the CTS Symposia where I was able to reconnect with a number of supporters & colleagues and completed my first two PhD classes. I returned to Addis Ababa the day before my classes resumed for the spring semester and am now almost to mid-terms. The time has flown by in a blur, but it has been very productive and very good.



*Above: Eric teaching at MYS Sem*

Through all of these activities, one thing that struck me many times was the way that international cooperation is impacting the way our church is able to reach people throughout the world. Two examples stand out in my mind. The first was from a discussion in my first PhD class which a classmate summarized like this: “The Korean pastor who moved to the US to serve a Korean immigrant congregation in the mid-west just asked for advice on witnessing to Muslims from the US pastor serving in Ethiopia who deferred the question to the Ethiopian pastor studying in the US.” Pastors from the US, Asia and Africa were discussing together how to witness to immigrants primarily from the Middle East now living in the US. The second example happened in my living room just a few weeks ago. As leadership from Lutheran Bible Translators visited with one of the leaders of the EECMY to discuss collaborating to create a Biblical Translation program in the Bachelor of Theology program here at MYS. This could help MYS train pastors who would be equipped to go out as missionaries able to do Bible translation in counties such as Sudan, Somalia, Chad, etc. Working together, we can train Ethiopian missionaries that are able to go to countries that American missionaries cannot work in safely. It is truly amazing the way our Lord can use our partnerships to spread His Gospel in ways we could not do alone. Thank you for working with us to be a part of all of this.

### Things to see in Addis . . .



When Dr. Sanchez arrived from the St. Louis Seminary, we visited the oldest Orthodox church in Addis Ababa. Naomi and Luke went along for a day trip to do some sight seeing. Thanks also to Dr. Elowsky. We are so thankful for the visiting professors who come and help to teach their specialties in theology using personal time to do so.

**Amharic**—this is the language we are learning. To say, “My laptop isn’t working” you would say, “ላፕቶፕ አይሰራም።”







### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Ethiopia in a State of Emergency again, prayers for people and government
- the students traveling through troubled country
- Ethiopian food aid needed
- Eric's teaching
- continued language classes
- wisdom for Eric as he teaches his students

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the first part of the PhD work and travel completed
- continued good health
- Johanna expecting our fourth child and good health

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- visits from our missionary friends—Dr. Elowsky, Dr. Sanchez, Shara & Michael Osiro, Dr. Rodewald and his wife Cindy (LBT) and Jim and Susan Kaiser (LBT), Tiffany Manor (Deaconess) and Sandra Rhein (Hymnal Consultant and Deaconess)
- the Rabe family
- God's faithfulness to us in His Word and Sacraments and the spiritual care we receive from our pastors
- the many opportunities to talk to others about Christ

## What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



*Clockwise from top left: the 500th celebration of the Reformation and the guest preacher from Nigeria; Michael and Shara Osiro visiting from Kenya; a traditional coffee ceremony pouring bunna (coffee) out of a "jebuna" - the typical Ethiopian vessel for coffee; a child recovering from foot surgery that we visited; Eric and Mark at the 500th Reformation Service; Naomi and her friend riding a camel*



**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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