



Did you know . . . ?

Amharic is the second most spoken semitic language in the world right after Arabic and is the official language of Ethiopia. There are over 80 tribal languages too.

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)

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Timkat-Ethiopian Epiphany

We are now in Africa! We arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on January 19th for our East Africa orientation. As we are preparing to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of East Africa, Rev. Rabe and myself in Ethiopia, Rev. Clausing and Sarah

Kanoy in Kenya, it seems to me that arriving in the Epiphany season is most appropriate. After all, Epiphany is when we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Savior for all the world, as illustrated by the Magi from the east coming to worship Him.

While we celebrate Epiphany on January 6th, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrates Epiphany on January 19th, the day we arrived in Africa. Not only do they recognize Epiphany on a different day, they also have a different focus...the Baptism of Jesus, which is why they call it Timkat, which is Amharic for "Baptism". They celebrate with brightly colored parades including models of the Ark of the Covenant, culminating in a service with consecrated water to bless the participants.

While I do find the Orthodox celebration of Timkat interesting, as we prepare to partner with the Ethiopian Lutherans to share the Good News with millions of Africans, I am even more strengthened and encouraged by our Lord's promise of salvation to people from all nations, as we are reminded each year by the visiting Magi.



East Africa Orientation in Kenya

Our journey to Kenya was very smooth. We left for the airport on Monday, Jan. 18th at 6:30 am and landed in Kenya on Tuesday at 8:30 pm and arrived at the hostel where we are staying at 11:30 pm. Adjusting to the time zone difference in East Africa has been challenging with 9 hours difference. One night, Luke was up from 2:00 am until 4:45 am and Rachael and Naomi woke up at 4:00 am and were up for the day too. Things are getting better though each day as our body clocks adjust.

Our orientation will be going through January 29th. We then await our visas/ work permits from Ethiopia to find out when we will be moving there. We may begin language training in Kenya if our permits are take a while.

Amharic—this is the language we will be learning. In this language, there are 126 letters. To say "I don't understand." አልገባኝም (algäbbañem) - *it didn't enter me*





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- for our orientation and cultural training
- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 pastors in the EECMY
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork to come through for Ethiopia
- to be able to learn what we need to with humility and wisdom
- needed catechisms in Amharic
- safe travels to Ethiopia

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- our safe arrival in Kenya
- all the new missionaries on the field
- Gary Thies and Mission Central team

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and partner with us
- our field director Rev. Trump and the team that received and welcomed 24 of us to the field

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."

Exploring Our Surroundings



Clockwise from top left: Maasai (Kenyan tribe) statues; Naomi petting an orphaned baby elephant; Johanna & Luke outside our hostel; Rachael and Gabriella Rabe at the Giraffe House; Eric & Rachael in Nairobi; Naomi—not quite sure about feeding a giraffe



Our New Phone Number:
+254 792 752 821 (only good as long as we're in Kenya)
Our US Mailing Address:
625 6th Ave., Havre, MT 59501



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

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

Mission Central
c/o Gary W. Thies
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105
Checks payable to:
Mission Central
Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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