



Did you know . . ?

Ethiopia just changed its currency to new banknotes this month. The highest note previously was 100 Ethiopian Birr (ETB) which was worth about \$2.72 USD. Now they have introduced a 200 ETB note. It is all quite colorful!



Classes at Seminary are Resuming

Addis Ababa— Last month I said that we were expecting to have a fall semester, but did not know what it would look like or when it would start. We still do not have all the answers regarding how we will manage classes, but we do know that we are starting classes by mid-October.

The government has announced that they are allowing our school to open. We will still need to practice reasonable precautions, such as masks, handwashing, social-distancing, etc. That will present some challenges for us. Our classrooms are not large enough to social distance with all students present, so we many need to break our classes into two or three sections, doubling or tripling in-class lecture time for teachers.

Our dormitories may present a challenge as well, I'm not sure that we have enough space to socially distance in our dorms. One answer that has been proposed is to teach with a mixture of distance and residential for all students. We would provide students with readings, lecture notes and assignments to study and prepare at home, then bring alternating small groups onto campus for intensive classroom teaching to strengthen, and more fully develop what they have done at distance. Regardless of the solutions we settle on, we will evaluate how that works for the fall semester, while the government also monitors the effect school openings have on COVID for the whole nation. Hopefully, all will go well and we will be able to return to our regular residential teaching practices in the spring.

As the fall semester is starting in the next few weeks, I am preparing for four courses. I will teach classes on preaching (focusing on clear Gospel presentation) and the sacraments (taking a deep look at God's grace in Baptism and The Lord's Supper) to second-year MA students. I will teach a class on personal development and the pastor's devotional life to first-year MA students. I enjoy this class, and use it to start challenging the way our new MA students think theologically as Lutherans. Finally, I will teach a class on biblical interpretation and understanding to our new Post-Graduate Diploma (a one year program for second career students) class. While I don't know all the details of how the semester's teaching will look, I am excited to get the new school year started. I am looking forward to having student on campus again and interacting with them. It is always very rewarding to see their hunger and excitement for God's truth as they study His Word. I praise and thank our Lord that He is allowing this to happen. It is a true blessing.



Renovation of a campus building

Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela



Earlier this month we visited these carved, monolithic churches in the mountainous Amhara region in Ethiopia. These 12th and 13th century churches were built by King Lalibela and are UNESCO world heritage sites. Still used daily, these are a must-see item and are amazing!

Amharic— to say “face mask” you would say የፊት ጭንብል (yefiti ch'inibili)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the seminary students who will be starting online and later traveling to come to the seminary in our capital, Addis Ababa
- professors who are trying to get their classes online
- a way to pay salaries of seminary professors and workers
- peace regarding a new date for national elections
- relief from locusts and help for farmers and those without food
- coping with not being able to see family for another year
- Covid issues worldwide

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- school restarting

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- our partners, the Rabe family
- all of our supporters in prayer & finances

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



From top left : Luke and Levi on the first leg of our trip up Mt. Hudedet outside of Lalibela; a traditional coffee ceremony in Lalibela; Rachael



and Naomi outside the women's entrance to a rock-hewn church; Levi and Addis on New Year's Day (It is now 2013 here in Ethiopia!); an Ethiopian Orthodox priest in a religious ceremony; Luke and our friend Kirubel on "Meskel" which is a holiday celebrating the finding of the "true" cross



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 & Levi

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 either:

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