



Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopia is one of only two nations in the world never to

have been occupied. The Italians tried twice, but failed to take the country.



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The Evangel in Ethiopia

New School Year: New Challenges at MYS

Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS) -The fall semester is just around the corner and my call to teach here at Mekane Yesus Seminary keeps showing me just how important it is that we are here. We could see from the beginning the great opportunity the Lord had placed before the LCMS when we were invited by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus to partner with them in their efforts to provide faithful Lutheran education for the many pastors they needed for this fast-growing church body and to walk with them as they examine and strengthen their firmly committed Lutheran identity. Now, it seems to be getting more personal for me on an almost daily basis. The latest event happened yesterday, as I was given the thesis proposals for two Masters students that I will be advising this year. Both proposals included a brief self-description or biography, so I was able to get a glimpse into a small part of the professional lives of these two men. The first has served in ministry for the EECMY for 18 years, he has been in the parish and teaching in one of the regional seminaries (both in the classroom and distance education). The other has been in the ministry for 12 years also both as parish pastor and in pastoral education. Both have been sent here to earn their Masters degrees and gain the necessary training to advance their positions and better serve in church leadership and in training new pastors. In one month, I will begin teaching and advising the men who will become the teachers who will train the next generation of pastors for the churches of Ethiopia. It is truly humbling and exciting to think about the amazing opportunity and great responsibility our Lord has placed before us here, but I know that, as He has called us to this endeavor, He will supply all our needs. You are one of the ways He is meeting those needs. Thank you in partnering with us to answer the Lord's call in this place. Continue to pray for us and for the many students learning from us.—Rev. Eric A. Stinnett



Engaging Ethiopia—Lost in Translation (photo by Carlotta Tiewes)



Helping Naomi with her Amharic, the homework had befuddled me (Johanna). I could not understand the verb from the recording. So I asked an Ethiopian, Addis, if she could explain it. Addis speaks only Amharic. So, she grabbed a pitcher and started acting as if she were pouring a drink—"Oh!", I said, "Pouring." She nodded yes, then started motioning as if writing. "Oh!", I said, "It means to write!" She nodded again. Then she started motioning as if to wipe the table. "Now, I'm confused," I said. After 10 more minutes we gave up. When Naomi's tutor came, we found out the verb was "to use". It could have gone all day!

Amharic—this is the language we are learning. To ask where the bathroom is, you would say, መጽዳጃ ክፍል የት ነው? (mäs'adaḡḡa köfl yätö näw)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- all the MYS new grad/pastors who are going out to serve in their parishes
- that the Lord will meet the need to train 10,000 pastors in the EECMY
- for the Youngs who will be joining our team in Ethiopia next week
- Rev. Trump, Krista & family and Julie McManus as they come to Ethiopia
- Eric and Dr. Rabe as they prepare to start teaching at the end of August
- needed Amharic catechisms
- for our continued study of Amharic
- Ethiopian hymnal project
- for good health: ongoing

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- our continued adjustment
- all the MYS new pastors
- God's faithful people here

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 have a vision for this church that is far-reaching

Daily Life on the Mekane Yesus Campus



Clockwise from top left: Rachael pouring injer batter onto a hot press in the seminary campus kitchen—it is eaten by most Ethiopians daily; Naomi picking up her injera with a basket “hot off the press”; Luke after Sunday School; traditional injera; MYS cooks preparing for a typical weekday lunch (Photos 1, 2 & 5 courtesy of Carlotta Tiews-LCMS)



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 either:

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