

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Hosanna Theological Seminary—Southern Ethiopia



Did you know . . . ?

Donkeys and camels were first domesticated in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has about 7 million donkeys (the most in the world) and 80% of the population depends on them in some way. A donkey sells for between \$90-\$150 up



from \$13 to \$22 just ten years ago.

FACEBOOK:

We are on Facebook, although consistent internet is a struggle. See our archived newsletters and feel free to share the work God is doing here with others. God is good!



Top left: Worship used to be under this tree on the Hosanna Seminary campus; Bottom left: Eric and Degu (President of the Hosanna Sem.) touring the campus with other faculty members

Hosanna, Ethiopia—Because my schedule was quite flexible in July we decided to take a little time to see more of Ethiopia. One stop on our trip that I particularly enjoyed was visiting one the EECMY regional seminaries, Hosanna Theological Seminary. Two of my former students who graduated this spring are on the faculty at this seminary. I had also met the seminary president at a few different meetings here at MYS. All three men had been encouraging me to visit their seminary. I am glad I finally had the chance. It is a beautiful campus, half of it houses the synodical offices and the other half is the seminary. It has a beautiful large church in the middle. In addition to student housing, the staff and faculty also live on campus so it does truly

foster a real sense of community.

As we toured the campus in the rain (the risk of travelling during the rainy season) they showed me where they have preserved a large tree in the middle of the campus. The first Lutheran missionary to the area needed a place to meet for worship and teaching, but he did not have a building, so he chose that tree. In the beginning, Sunday worship services, Bible study classes, etc. were all held under the tree. Over time his mission grew and they built a small church. Then they added a larger compound around the building. As they grew, their compound and mission did, too. Eventually it became the seminary that I toured. It stands today as a wonderful example of how a small mission effort can grow into something quite large (in a way, kind of a living example of Christ's mustard seed parable). As our seminaries here in the EECMY continue to train pastors and evangelists, many of whom may start out preaching under a similar tree, I wonder—hopefully— what the results will be.



Ingenious Uses of the False Banana Tree



Dorze Village, Guga Mountains— The Dorze people were amazing in the number of ways they use the false banana tree. They build their houses from the leaves and also use them as a lining while cooking. The inside of the stem is scraped out, (as Rachael and Luke are doing in the picture), buried underground for three months to ferment, and then used as flour (kocho) to make their flat bread. They also use the long, fibrous materials found inside the stem to make ropes, mats or sacks. Because it can be harvested at any time of the year, this tree has been called, “the tree against hunger”.

Amharic—this is our language. To say: “Lord, You are our Father”, you would say, አቤቱ፣ አንተ አባታችን ነህ





What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Eric and myself in full time language classes for the summer & language retention
- Eric's preparations for the next school year's classes—he will teach five classes: new syllabi, lesson plans, reading lists, lectures, etc.
- the Master's of Theology program: students, professors and administrators
- Ethiopia's peace and safety
- funding for visiting professors to teach here at MYS
- wisdom in serving the people of God here at the MYS

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the opportunity to learn more about Ethiopian people and culture through travel this summer
- the seminary working to set up another successful school year

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the new and returning students who will study God's Holy Word
- all who uphold the Lord's work here with prayer and support—& for good health
- the Rabe family here with us in Ethiopia



Clockwise from top left: We visited the Dorze people in July in the Guga mountains. They performed a cultural dance for us; donkeys hauling loads up the mountain; a man who rents the beautiful sash and jacket that are used for the ceremony when a couple gets engaged; Luke and I trying to make raw cotton into yarn with a Dorze girl; baboons at the edge of the Nech Sar National Forest; Rachael and Naomi in front of a Dorze home made out of false banana leaves (the houses last about 70 years); an unusual danger sign (crocs & hippos)



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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