



Did you know . . . ?

The Black-Maned Ethiopian lion, known among Ethiopians as simply *Black Lion*, is a national symbol and celebrated as uniquely Ethiopian. It is reported to be genetically different than other African lions and a few are still found in the wild in Ethiopia.



The Evangel in Ethiopia

The Post Graduate Diploma Program (PGD)

Addis Ababa—Last month, I talked about the many church leaders who have graduated from or are currently attending our MA program. Today, I want to tell you about the students in my Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) class. The PGD program is designed as a one year theology training course for students who have already graduated from secular programs. It is a way to quickly provide training for people who wish to become second-career



A humorous moment at convocation

pastors. This is the second year of the program and I am impressed with both last year's and the current class of students, both for their academic performance and for their dedication and zeal. Their backgrounds are quite varied and impressive. This year's class includes two civil engineers, five members of MYS administration, two accountants, government workers with Masters Degrees in Social Work, Information Technology, Nursing and Public Health and even a music producer with his own recording studio. All of these students have reliable well-paying jobs (something that can be hard to get in Ethiopia) and are preparing to leave those positions to serve the church. They all can see the need for pastors here and also that the church offers something more important than any of the other work they are doing – eternal life. So, they are preparing to leave behind economic security, social prestige and whatever else their old professions had so that they can serve the church, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Ethiopia. It is truly humbling to be able to help prepare them to do this. Once again, I find myself thanking our Lord and each one of you for sending me here. I am truly blessed to have a part in the work God is doing here. Thank you for being a part of it, too.

Meskel Flowers

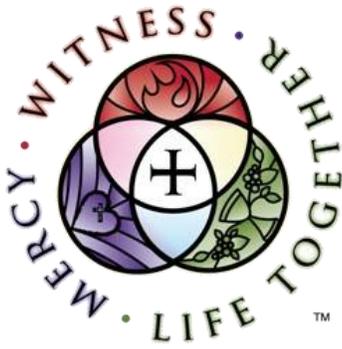


Naomi, Levi and Addis with Meskel flowers

“Meskel” has once again been celebrated this past weekend. This is a holiday of the Ethiopian Orthodox church that celebrates the legend of the finding of the cross of Christ. Every year around this time, the yellow *Meskel* flowers bloom and are a reminder of this holiday and they usually signal the end of the rainy season. So far, the rainy season has continued, but we are looking forward to the daily rains coming to a conclusion and the return of the sun.

Amharic— to say “Blessed New Year!” you would say የተባረከ አዲስ ዓመት :: (ye-te-bar-e-ke a-dees ah-met)





What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the new MA I (about 28), continuing MA 2 (about 12) and new PGD (about 25) students that Eric is teaching now
-continued language training

GIVE THANKS FOR:

-the childcare team who came and loved and cared for our children
-part of the hymnal being recorded
-a great continuing education module led by Dr. Jeff Oswald on the book of Acts

PRAISE GOD FOR:

-our fellow missionaries, the Rabe family and Kaisers
-all of our supporters in prayer and finances
-the new EECMY hymnal being printed and audio recordings starting
-the new students who are eagerly applying themselves to studying and learning God's Word so that they may teach others



From top left: Levi with Michael Osiro (from Kenya); some of the childcare team; Johanna with a few of the new hymnal recording team; the missionary kids together at our continuing education meeting; an Ethiopian wedding party (bride on right)



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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