



Did you know . . . ?



This is a picture of the National Palace in Ethiopia. Past emperors and kings lived in these beautiful and regal dwellings. The King had his own house, as did the Empress and the princes. All of them were connected by passageways.

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Unexpectedly Sharing the Gospel on Ethiopian National TV

Addis Ababa—Since the last time I wrote, I have finished a semester, celebrated Christmas twice, and begun a new semester. I am teaching classes with the first and second-year MA students and the PGD students, so I am very happy to have the opportunity to influence the ministry of so many different students. I am also being given opportunities outside of my usual teaching responsibilities. We were able to support one exciting, but unexpected project.

Two of the students in my PGD class are husband and wife. He is a successful music producer and music instructor at the MYS Music School. She is a professional singer. They are both children of pastors in the EECMY. They joined the PGD program because they believe their musical talents can be used to reach many people with the Gospel in different ways, but they want to be sure that what they present in song and word is theologically correct and evangelically focused...so they are studying theology here at the seminary.

The EECMY owns a TV station and gave this couple a two hour time slot for a Christmas day program. They approached us for help. Johanna helped them select a Christmas hymn to record out of the hymnal (see my October newsletter). They recorded their music video at our home (I think it was mostly for our Christmas decorating) and Johanna, Luke and Levi were in the video. (Luke is now being approached around town by people who saw him on national television.) They also interviewed me for a segment of the program discussing Bethlehem, everything from the Old Testament prophecies, the birth of Jesus, what His birth means for us today, to modern day Bethlehem. Their show has aired on the station and it is estimated that there were about thirty million viewers.

My students told me they have now been given a regular weekly slot and will be broadcasting a new show every Sunday. They will begin filming their next segment this Saturday in our backyard and want to interview me on the topic of Shiloh in the Old Testament. When I was called to teach in Ethiopia, I never dreamed I would be contributing to a Christian music and talk show on television that is sharing the Gospel with millions of viewers each week. Thank you for choosing to be a part of it by helping to keep us here.



Luke as "Joseph" in the music video

New Unity Park in Addis Ababa Opens



Prime Minister Abiy has just opened the Imperial Palace and surrounding grounds to the public for the first time. For over one hundred years it was where the emperors lived and was carefully guarded and kept mostly secret except for the elite in the government. It was a truly lovely place to visit and learn more of Ethiopia's history.

Amharic— to say "Jesus is King!" you would say ኢየሱስ ንጉሥ ነው :: (iyesoos negoos no)





What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the Masters and Post Graduate Diploma students who are just starting their new semester
- finding a new language teacher and time to study
- wisdom and peace for the Ethiopian people and government & for peaceful national elections

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the new opportunities given to share the Gospel
- our friend, Julia who visited for a week and uplifts us with her friendship and love

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- our fellow missionaries, the Rabes & Kaisers
- all of our supporters in prayer and finances
- Gemechu and Lidiya for their dedication to serving the Lord through music and theology
- continued opportunity to teach and meet new students here on campus
- return of the students from the Christmas break



From top left: recording a professional music video on our front porch; Eric, Gemechu (music producer and Eric's PGD student) and Rev. Mike Schempf (missionary to Uganda) meeting on MYS campus; Levi and our new kitten, Galadriel; Ethiopian women (traditional) at the Unity Park in Addis; Naomi, Eric and Gemechu stringing lights for the music video lighting



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:

<p>Mission Central c/o Gary W. Thies 40718 Highway E 16 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105 Checks payable to: Mission Central Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Checks payable to: LCMS Mark Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia Give securely online: lcms.org/stinnett</p>
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