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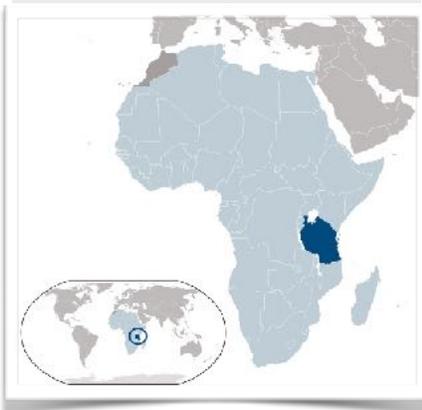
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Participants snap pictures during the closing moments of January’s seminar on Lutheran Identity in Arba Minch, Ethiopia.

Glory, Hidden at the Cross

Naaman was not impressed: “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.” (2 Ki 5:11) Naaman expected a miracle show, but in his case God brought healing through the lowly water of the Jordan River. Similarly, the jeering passersby were not impressed: “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” (Mt 27:40) They expected glory from anyone claiming to be savior, but in their case (and ours) salvation came by way of the cross.

In January I delivered a two-and-a-half-day seminar on Lutheran Identity to a group of pastors and seminary students in Arba Minch, Ethiopia. As one might expect, we spent many hours on Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone; but it turned out that the highlight of our seminar was the session on the Theology of the Cross, which even made a few eyes misty with joy. In recent years many miracle-working false prophets have moved into the Arba Minch area, drawing away many potential and former Christians with promises of immediate wealth and success. Humanly speaking, it’s hard to compete



Our Family

Anita and I were married on August 16, 1997 and have been blessed with nine children.

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Jonathan (8.20.75)
- Anita (12.9.74)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ethan (5.8.08)
- Eric (12.16.09)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)

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when your church is named St. John's and the neighboring church is the Winners' Apostolic Miracle Power Church of Glory. (Yes, there are really churches with names like that.)

As we studied God's message of the cross, frustrated and discouraged pastors were edified to be reminded from Scripture that they are not alone - that God has a long history of accomplishing His mighty purposes using humble means, lowly people, bitter suffering, and even death. In the midst of apparent defeat, God's people cling to His promises, knowing that Jesus' apparent defeat was actually His victory and that resurrection follows Good Friday. It was a joy for me to spend those days in Ethiopia studying the Scriptures with my brothers in Christ.

Local Update

Please continue to hold our local Tanzanian church in prayer. I was sent to Ethiopia in part because there are currently no teaching opportunities for me here due to the church's ongoing state of disarray. Pray for peace and unity in our church and also that God would provide new opportunities for me to teach His Word in the year ahead.



A local Ethiopian pastor emailed me this cartoon to illustrate his frustration. Although intended to be humorous, no one is laughing about this in my own town of Moshi after twenty people were trampled to death last week at a false prophet's miracle rally. Lord, have mercy.