

NEWS FROM THE RABE FAMILY SERVING IN ETHIOPIA

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Fun facts about Ethiopia...

Ethiopian children must learn both their tribal language and the country's official language of Amharic. They must also have a good grasp of English by the time they start secondary school. From the age of 12 onwards, all school lessons are carried out in English.



Come learn Amharic with me...

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Ethiopian Food

“Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation”

—Psalm 95



Schools and borders are closed. The sound of airplanes over our house in Addis Ababa is growing less by the day. The chapel is silent...to gather would go over the 15 person “limit” for gathering. There will be no public worship on Sunday—only home prayer groups.

These are very different times and things may have already changed by the time you receive and even read to the end of this newsletter!

For the most part our situation is similar to yours in the US. Our students were sent home and some to a very far distance of a whole day's journey. Classes will not resume for 3-5 weeks and we have no online courses. My students will send their mid terms to me via email. Well, most of them will for some of my students are in a village so remote where they don't have an internet cafe to send and receive their work.

Even for Africa, there is a sense of fear and concern over the virus. But we are all fine. We are in our homes and continue to homeschool as we have for 12 years now. For some you have just begun this adventure—reluctantly. Yet in all this we are reminded of who is our “rock” and our “shield” and our “strength” in times of trouble. It is the Lord Jesus. It is he alone who has conquered sin, death and the devil. It is He alone who has borne all our afflictions and sin yet was without sin. It is He who is a faithful high priest who can sympathize with us because he became one of us! He knows your fears, your isolation, and grief.

From afar we see the news in America, the panic and fear, and we too are amazed at the situation that has gripped the world. But as Christians our faith is not in the stock market, nor in our pantry, but in the Lord Jesus Christ!

"But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head" (Psalm 3:3)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Stefanie's father's health and the isolation due to being in a care home*
- *The spread of the Gospel in Ethiopia to Muslims and other non-believers*
- *Peace and calm in the world rather than fear and anxiety*
- *The families affected due to school closures, families and those who have lost their jobs due to the virus*
- *The upcoming Ethiopian elections in August*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *God's care and provision*
- *Safe travels for our visitors to the E. Africa field and two missionary families as they travel to the US.*

To support the LCMS through the work of Mark Rabe, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

-OR-

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to: *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.* Mark checks "**Support of Mark Rabe—Ethiopia.**" Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page www.lcms.org/rabe.



Left: A coffee field in Ethiopia

So our dear supporter, friends and family, know that we are praying for you, just as we thank God for you and your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. Together we place our hope and trust in the Lord to carry us through.

During times like this Psalm 3 has been particularly meaningful to me:

But you, O Lord,
are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
Psalm 3:3

We can be confident that in our time of distress—like these times—that the Lord shields, protects and provides for us. While we may be anxious and fearful we can be comforted by the Lord, who in His great love for us has brought us salvation through the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ so that though heaven and earth may pass away, His word of promise will not! And we can be confident that because he has risen from the dead—we too will rise to new life on the Last Day in the New Heavens and New Earth! So we place our hope and confidence in Christ Jesus our Lord—the Rock of our salvation!

Home Service

Since so much is uncertain at this time we are hoping to be able to visit and report on the work in Ethiopia and East Africa but due to the flight and travel situation we have not purchased our tickets.

We continue to look forward to the opportunity to visit with our supporters and to see the wonderful folks at Mission Central!

We thank God for you all and continue to lift you up in prayer to God for your generosity and prayerful support.



Vegetable Bayanetu

During the season of Lent many orthodox Christians refrain from meat and dairy so fasting food is easily available and delightful to eat!

