



### Did you know . . . ?

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa with more than 105 million citizens. However, it has relatively low Internet connectivity with less than 15% of its population having access to the Internet. Even those having access to the Internet pay, access is expensive and often unreliable. ([internetsociety.org](http://internetsociety.org))

### COVID-19 Challenges

**Addis Ababa**— Last month, we talked about some of the changes we are seeing here due to the COVID virus. One thing we mentioned was that the students had all been sent home and we are now trying to teach them remotely. While the idea is not unique to Ethiopia, many of you are either doing the same thing with your children or know someone who is...remote teaching here does have its own challenges.

Initially, when the students were sent home (by government mandate to all schools) they were told it was only for two weeks so many did not take their books with them. Now those two weeks have turned into the rest of the school year.

The biggest challenge for my students is the availability of technology. The churches here cannot afford to pay much more than subsistence wages to the pastors, so most of my students are on the low end of the socio-economic scale. For many of them, smartphones and laptops are luxuries they can't afford. Some of my students who do have laptops, live in remote areas without available Wi-Fi. One of my students lives in a village with no electricity. He has to travel for 1 ½ hour just to charge his flip-phone.

The problem isn't only with the students. Some of our faculty members are lacking computers, smartphones or Wi-Fi at home as well.

Still, the Lord has placed us here and given us work to do. We are doing whatever we can to work with the students in their different situations. Some students are able to connect with apps similar to WhatsApp or Zoom. Some are able to email. Some are only able to call or text, and some can't even do that consistently. We are sending out reading, lecture notes and assignments by all of these means (even resorting to stamps and envelopes when necessary). We are extending deadlines and carrying on. Some students will finish on time, others may not complete this semester until next year. But, we are doing everything possible to continue to train and equip as many pastors for the EECMY as we can. Times like this remind us of just how much the world needs to hear the comforting, reassuring message of the Gospel. Thank you for helping MYS to keep sending those messengers out. By God's grace, it will continue for many years.



*A picture from a couple of months ago with students in our living room—now not possible with corona restrictions*

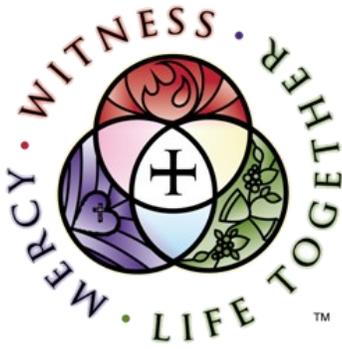
### Broadcasting on Ethiopian TV

The COVID-19 troubles have also brought some blessings into our lives. Both Kes Teshome, the General Secretary of the EECMY, and Eric have had the opportunities in the last week to preach and teach on national TV. These are opportunities not available prior to the corona virus. Thanks be to God for these evangelism tools. Eric was teaching on Communion and even addressed issues like, "Can we take communion online?"



**Amharic**— to say "quarantine", you would say ለብቻ መለየት (lebacha meleyeti)





**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- the seminary students and a way to finish their studies this year
- a way to reach the students who don't have internet
- peace regarding a new date for the recently postponed national elections
- wisdom for the LCMS to know what to do for the worldwide missionaries
- for relief from locusts and help for farmers and those without food
- coping with (most likely) not coming back to the US this summer—we wish we could!

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- being able to stay here in our home in Ethiopia
- ways to contact our family around the world

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- our fellow missionaries, the Rabes & Kaisers
- all of our supporters in prayer and finances
- for healthcare workers who in harm's way

**What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?**



*From top left : Rachael & Gabby dissecting a frog; Johanna & Levi at Ethiotel; Levi & Addis; construction of the new building on our seminary campus continues; visiting friends on Ethiopian Easter and their little girl in traditional dress; Rachael, Levi & Luke prepare the first turkey we have had in Ethiopia on Easter*



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?”<sup>31</sup> 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](http://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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