



Did you know . . ?

Ethiopia has seen an 80% increase in Covid 19 cases last week. This has worried many people. The government has also postponed national



elections until May of 2021 because of the pandemic which is causing unrest.

More COVID-19 Challenges

Addis Ababa— It has been a couple months since our last newsletter. I do apologize for that, but among other challenges, the internet in Ethiopia was turned off at the end of June through most of July due to unrest in the country. I don't want to spend time on the details of that, but if you are interested, you can find a few articles about it on the BBC. I will simply say, the government acted quickly to get things under control and we have been safe the entire time.

Through it all, we have been busy trying to finish up the school year (see last newsletter) and just this week, we have finally been able to collect all the assignments and tests from our graduating students, hold thesis defenses and give final grades.

We do not have a final decision from the government, but the hints they are giving have made our Seminary President, Dr. Bruk, confident that we will be allowed to open the campus for fall classes and we are preparing to do so. We will probably have to start late, maybe the end of September or as late as mid-October. I don't know what the school calendar will look like, but as Dr. Bruk put it, "Once we are able to start, we will have to be 100% on, full-time, for the year." I expect it to be a very busy year, but also very rewarding.

In the meantime, we keep busy, making good use of the opportunities opening before us, such as recording television shows for Mekane Yesus TV. It has proved to be an excellent way to reach a great number of people. As gatherings have been restricted, including churches, and social opportunities are limited, people are spending a lot of time on their televisions. The EECMY has a TV station that reaches 20-30 million viewers and we have been working with them to record shows teaching the basic truths of the Bible – Grace, Faith, understanding the Bible as the perfect the Word of God, etc. Based on the feedback we have gotten, it has been a great way to fill the time I would have had in the classroom and is reaching many, many more people. We truly thank and praise our Lord for this opportunity. We also thank you. We know things are difficult and uncertain where you are. Thank you for your care and support, even in the midst of your own challenges. We are praying for all of you also.



Eric with the kids on Father's Day

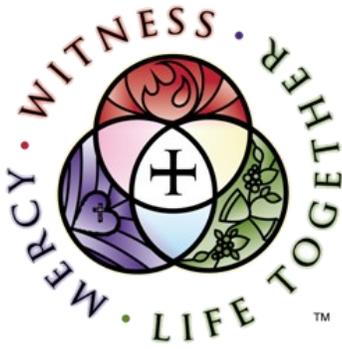
Confirmation Overseas



Our oldest daughter, Rachael was confirmed in the living room of our missionary partners, Rev. Dr. Mark and Stefanie Rabe. We had hoped to be home in the United States and be with family and friends for this special occasion, but as with all things related to Covid, those plans changed. We were so thankful to hear her confession of the Lutheran faith articulated so clearly and pray that God grants her growth in her faith all her life long. Thanks be to God.

Amharic— to say "social distancing" you would say ማህበራዊ ርቀት (mahiberawī rik'eti)





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the seminary students and professors who are hoping to have classes this year
- a way to pay salaries of seminary professors and workers
- peace regarding a new date for the recently postponed national elections
- for relief from locusts and help for farmers and those without food
- coping with not being able to see family for now
- all Covid problems worldwide

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- having a restful summer here in Ethiopia
- ways to contact our family and friends around the world and know they are well

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- our fellow missionaries, the Rabes & Kaisers
- all of our supporters in prayer and finances
- for chameleons, hiking & the new campus building

What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?



From top left : First day of homeschool 2020; Addis making “buhe daboe” for the St. Mary’s festival; the kids in a bulldozer shovel for the construction being done on the cafeteria; Levi fell asleep with Johanna on a hike in the mountains just outside of Addis; a chameleon the kids enjoyed on a hike

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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