

Stinnetts in Ethiopia

May 2022

Please pray for:

- peace and economic stability in Ethiopia
- hungry and displaced persons from the war
- famine relief
- help for those who are newly homeless and seeking food, shelter and security
- students who are in the second year of the Master's program as they graduate and return home all across Ethiopia
- Johanna's upcoming hand surgery
- massive inflation and Ethiopian birr devaluation
- our mission partners, from Brazil and Kenya and their families, who are transitioning to Ethiopia
- Eric's load of marking final papers/exams and theses
- our family as we are about to travel to the US
- that the houses will be ready to receive our new missionaries

Ethiopia Update

Closing Out the School Year



(left) Eric signing final Master's Thesis paper with student & recording podcasts on the Lutheran Confessions

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia-- As this school year comes to a close, I was reminded of one of the benefits of teaching here. We usually talk about the effects we have on the EECMY students, and the strong hope we have of helping them strengthen their church and Lutheran theology. This is the reason my call exists. But, there is another benefit, we might be able to call it a side effect, and that is the influence we are able to have on our non-EECMY students. A small minority of our students come to the MA program from other church bodies (mostly Baptist and charismatic churches). They are invariably challenged by our Lutheran beliefs, and often leave with a better understanding and appreciation for Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They take these teachings back with them.

This year I had a student from a very traditional Pentecostal church. His church believes you are not a true Christian unless you "speak in tongues" which to them is the necessary proof that you have the Holy Spirit. Along with his church, he believed that when he joined our program. Our teaching made him rethink his position, and he ended up writing his Thesis Paper on a biblical evaluation of this claim, with the conclusion that it is wrong. He said he is going to present this paper to his church body and try to correct their error. He expects to be rejected and kicked out of his church but feels compelled to share the truth with them no matter what the consequences may be. I am impressed by his courage and conviction to speak the truth.

He is still more charismatic in theology than not. I am under no illusions that he is now Lutheran. And he will have no trouble finding a less Pentecostal but still charismatic church body to join. But he has learned to better judge his beliefs based on the clear teachings of the Bible and I pray that he will continue to grow in the truth...he is much closer now than he was two years ago. He is more focused on God's promises and the certainty of His Word, rather than what kind of "gifts" he can teach his people to manifest. He is focused on the Gospel. I thank our Lord for that.

Give thanks for:

- classes being able to finish despite all of the turmoil this year
- family, friends and supporters from around the world
- our many graduates
- God continuing to meet our needs
- the ongoing rebuilding of the seminary post-flood

Praise God for:

- our LCMS team who is helping to get the Alliance missionaries ready to arrive
- for our kids finishing another year of school

To support our work financially send to:

Mission Central

c/o Gary Thies
 40718 Highway E 16
 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105
 Checks payable to:
 Mission Central
 Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia
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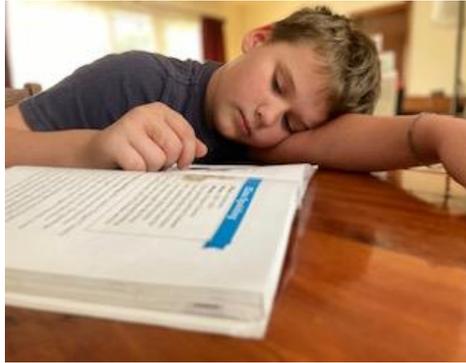
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861
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Give securely online:

LCMS.org/stinnett

What Have We Been Doing Lately



(top left) Luke finishing school this week (top right) a monkey looking in our window – the population on campus is growing causing increasing problems and aggression (bottom left) a new water tank being delivered to our house on a tiny truck – our boys were delighted (bottom right) Rachael and Levi taking some down time and relaxing as finals and final papers loomed



(left) Inflation is continuing to increase and stands at a staggering 36.6% overall. Food inflation is at 43.4% meaning that compared to the same time as last year, prices are 43.4% higher. This has been devastating to the population here – we are praying for stability and mercy.

To say, "God's blessings on your graduation!" you would write, በምረቃህበት ጊዜ እግዚአብሔር የበረከታችሁ በረከቶች!::

Closing Thoughts: The 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?" And he said, "How can I unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:30ff) Thank you in Jesus' Name for your support of the work God has laid before us – Eric, Johanna, Rachael, Naomi, Luke & Levi