

## Stinnetts in Ethiopia

November 2023



### Please pray for:

- peace and stability in Ethiopia and her churches
- new workers being called to the mission field
- traumatized/displaced persons from the war -
- students studying in the Master's program and working on their theses
- for the students approaching end of semester exams/papers

# Ethiopia Update

## LCMS Alliance Project

This is an international mission partnership between the LCMS and our sister church in Brazil (the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil – IELB based on the Brazilian spelling of their name). It takes advantage of the strengths of both church bodies and helps each reach beyond their current capacity.

The LCMS has been involved in international mission work for most of her existence, (actually, from even before her formal beginning as many of the people who started the LCMS came to the US as missionaries from Germany). We have a long history with solid mission theology and experience. I have seen many mission organizations in Africa and I am very proud of and thankful for ours. If I could identify one weakness of LCMS missions, it is the low number of pastors going into the international mission field. As Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

The IELB is a theologically strong church body that produces very well educated, biblically faithful, committed pastors. Recently, she has been training more pastors than needed to fill congregational positions in the country. However, as a church body, she has not had a strong presence in international missions, and therefore, hasn't had the time and experience to develop a robust system for expanding and supporting international mission work like the LCMS has.

IELB is filling many positions in both Africa and Latin American mission fields. The LCMS benefits from the faithful service of very good pastors and IELB benefits by learning from our many years of experience in international missions. And many, many more people hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.



*Dr. Samuel & Vivian Fuhrmann, Brazilian Alliance missionaries serving at MYS in Ethiopia*



## Did you know...?

Shoulder dancing is a popular form of dance in Ethiopia. It is called “Eskesta” dancing. Tribal life in Ethiopia contributed to the formation which involves the head, chest and shaking the shoulders in a rhythmic way. It is used in songs pertaining to love, war, religion, shepherding and hunting. It went viral on TikTok a little while back. Even little children start to learn it here.

# What Have We Been Doing Lately

-Eric's PhD work and support raising

## Give thanks for:

-continued teaching and faithful students

-family, friends and supporters from around the world

-Alliance missionary partners teaching with us here

## Praise God for:

-our LCMS/Alliance teams who are faithfully teaching sound theology

-for the new facility to support faculty housing largely funded by the LCMS

## To support our work financially send to:

### Mission Central

c/o Gary Thies  
Highway E 16 Mapleton, IA  
51034-7105 Checks payable to:  
Mission Central  
Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia or

### The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
Checks payable to: LCMS  
Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia  
or

## Give securely online:

LCMS.org/stinnett



(from top left clockwise) Rev. Francis Hoffmann, Alliance missionary with his class using Book of Concord; Rev. Moacyr Alves, Eric, Dr. Samuel Fuhrmann & Rev. Francis Hoffmann together (Alliance missionaries); Dr. Fuhrmann teaching at Mekane Yesus Seminary; Levi with some kittens; the fires celebrating the Ethiopian holiday of Meskel (the "finding of the true cross"); a beetle we found; students in the Masters program



**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 Stinnett

In Amharic, to say, "shoulder dancing" you would say ... የትከሻ  
የጭፈራ (yatikisha cheferah)