



Rockrohr News and Notes

www.rockrohr.net

End of Semester and Change of Ministry

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Semester End & Ministry Changes	2
Photos	3
Thank You!	3
Summer Visit Schedule	4
Future Contact Information	4
Photos	5
Prayer Requests	5

Ministry Information

Rev. Dr. Carl & Deaconess Dr. Deborah Rockrohr, and Ted

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122
www.lcms.org

Email: carl.rockrohr@lcmsintl.org
deborah.rockrohr@lcmsintl.org

Websites:
www.rockrohr.net
www.lcms.org/rockrohr



Dr. William Schumacher, Deborah, Ted and Carl (all in center) pose with much of the full-time Mekane Yesus Seminary theology staff after a farewell lunch for several departing expatriate staff.

June marks the end of 2nd semester as well as the end of the academic year at Mekane Yesus Seminary. There are about 45 graduates from the B.Th. program and about 8 graduates from the M.A. program that Carl worked with closely throughout the year. The end of May and beginning of June became very full of activities with MA theses due, extra courses tacked on at the end, checking graduate re-

quirements, and already preparing for summer courses. The total number of graduates for all three schools of the seminary is over 800.

Leaving Ethiopia

We are leaving missions and returning to the U.S. The primary reason is that our son Ted, who will be a sophomore in high school next year, really needs to be with us. He has been in boarding school for his freshman year at St. Paul

Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. St. Paul is a good school and has worked with us very well, but we have been concerned about the separation. In late April Deborah, Ted and I talked on Skype and decided we just need to be together during these critical high school years. During several weeks in May through visits, emails and phone calls with LCMS mission personnel it was deter-

(Continued on page 2)

End of Semester & Changes

(Continued from page 1)

mined that there is no place in the LCMS Africa mission work that meets our family needs at this time. We thank Rev. Shauen Trump, the LCMS Eastern and Southern Africa Area Director, for helping us to think through our situation.

This news may come as a bit of a surprise because we have not talked much about our family concerns. Ted has been in 4 schools in 3 years and we want stability for him for his last 3 years in high school. The last two weeks in May were filled with discussions and meetings with seminary people and church leaders in Ethiopia. They are disappointed to learn of our departure but also understand the reason for it. Arrangements are underway to continue a LCMS teaching presence in Ethiopia.

The Larger Picture

The larger picture is that we had determined as a family to send Ted to a boarding school in the U.S. in March 2013 only one week before we first heard that we were needed in Ethiopia. If Ted had



Deborah with the MA student, Abebech Kussa Wonjii, whose MA thesis she advised. All the MA theses focused on ministry issues in Ethiopia. Abebech's thesis researched and analyzed reasons for the continuing practice of female genital mutilation even though it is outlawed in the church.

not agreed to try U.S. boarding school away from us, we probably never would have spent even one year in Ethiopia. So, Ted's willingness to be apart from us during this past year enabled us to serve in Ethiopia for a year. LCMS had no one else to send at short notice just then, and we are thankful that Ted's willingness to attend boarding school in the U.S. enabled us to be in Ethiopia for a year. The Lord Jesus knows how the work and lives of His people of all ages enables His church.

Future Ministry

We are with LCMS missions until early September. We have a few ideas for future ministry but nothing certain at this time. Deborah and I both have served in Africa missions, U.S. congregational settings, and in Lutheran universities - so we know the possibilities are many but at this time only the Lord Jesus knows where we will serve next. We will keep you informed of the changes. You are invited to hear us speak; see our schedule in this newsletter.

In Christ,
Carl, Deborah and Ted

Photos of Blessings

Thank you!

- For your continued prayers for our health and safety.
- To supporting congregations and individuals who have seen us through 3 years of work with LCMS Office of International Mission.
- To our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, MI and Concordia Lutheran School who monthly find new volunteers to stuff, label and stamp the envelopes for this newsletter.
- To our Ethiopian colleagues who have loved and supported us over the last year.



Carl and Deborah's first grandchild was baptized on June 22. Parents Rebecca and Scott Johnson look on as Eli James Johnson is baptized. Scott is in the white alb in back, he preached for the service. Both Scott and Becky begin service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsdale, MI in August. Scott as Associate Pastor and Rebecca as Deaconess. The pastor who is baptizing Eli is Rev. Michael Trombley.



Carl with two MYS instructors, Mr. Gedion and Mrs. Ebise on the occasion of publicly recognizing her new book, *Trafficking Of Women In Ethiopia: A Theological Reflection And Consequences For Ethiopian Churches*.

Mr. Gedion, who is the Associate Dean, will be watching over the MYS School of Theology dean's duties until there are other arrangements.



Rev. Dr. William Schumacher of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with his first year MA class. Dr. Will taught the courses "Introduction to Systematic Theology" and "Life and Work of Martin Luther" over a period of 8 weeks.



VISITATION SCHEULE: JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Wedding of James Rockrohr & Megan Frisque
6 Pilgrim, West Bend WI (Bible Class)	7	8	9 Meetings at LCMS; travel to CO	10	11	12
13 Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial CO	14	15	16 Faith, Woodland Park CO	17	18	19
20 Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa WI	21	22	23 Covenant, Milwaukee WI	24	25	26 St Paul's, Farmington Hills, MI
27 St Paul's, Farmington Hills, MI	28	29	30	31	July 1	2

AUGUST 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Sunday at St Paul's Lutheran Ch., Hillsdale, MI. Rebecca Johnson's deaconess commissioning in Sunday AM service. Scott Johnson's ordination on Sunday afternoon.						
10 Christ, Milford MI						

FUTURE CONTACT INFORMATION

Since we will be traveling a lot during July, as well as relocating somewhere in July-August here is contact information which will be reliable:

E-mail: Carl - carl.rockrohr@gmail.com
Deborah - rockrohrd@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: (This is Deborah's parents and will remain the same.)
Carl & Deborah Rockrohr
1364 Huron Lane
Jackson, MO 63755

**Read more about
our work online:
www.rockrohr.net**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayers for the seminary staff and students as summer school starts.

- Prayers for all LCMS missionaries in Africa for protection from the many physical dangers in Africa.

- Prayers for thanksgiving for the safe delivery and good health of daughter Rebecca Johnson and baby Eli.

- Prayers for guidance for Carl, Deborah and Ted as they seek the Lord's will where to live, work, and go to school.



Carl and Deborah in Ethiopian dress given as gifts from the Mekane Yesus Seminary staff.



Deborah holds her first grandchild, Eli James Johnson. Deborah was able to help daughter Rebecca for 10 days after Eli's birth.