



# Rockrohr News and Notes

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## Changes in God's Work

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### Ministry Information

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Look for us on Facebook too!



**LTS students graduating from the University of Pretoria on 3 April 2013: (left to right) Rev. John Nkambule; Mr. Enoch Macben; and Mr. Frank Kainerugaba.**

Another two months have gone by, and oh my! How God blesses and sustains us! Our last newsletter listed many challenges, like Ted's surgery and Carl's car accident. These past months have not had such difficult events, but many blessings and changes in how we continue to serve the Lord.

### **Congratulations to LTS Students Graduating from UP**

In April three LTS students graduated from the University of Pretoria with Bachelors and Master degrees. The university recognizes the students' 4

or 5 years of study at LTS, and allows them to enter into a Bachelors "Honors" program. If they succeed at that level, they may also try to enter and complete a Master's degree. Congratulations to Mr. Frank Kainerugaba who earned a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Theology—Science of Religion and Missiology; Mr. Enoch Macben who earned a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Theology—New Testament Studies; and Rev. John Nkambule who

earned a Master of Arts in Theology—Science of Religion and Missiology.

### **Ted to Start School in the U.S.**

Ted continues his schooling at Hilton College in South Africa until June 21st. A few days later he will fly to the U.S. to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX.

Ted will start high school in the U.S. at St. Paul

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To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

**LCMS**  
**P.O. Box 790089**  
**St. Louis, MO 63179-0089**

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Sign check memo “Support of Rockrohr Family.”

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [www.lcms.org/Rockrohr](http://www.lcms.org/Rockrohr).



**Ethiopia Fast Facts:**

*Land Size: 426,372 sq miles (slightly less than twice the size of Texas)*

*Adidas Ababa: Capitol where Rockrohrs will live is 4 million people - elevation 7,500 feet.*

*Population: 93,877,025 (July 2013 est.— Almost 4 times population as Texas)*

*64% of population is 24 years of and under*

*Religions: Ethiopian Orthodox 43.5%, Muslim 33.9%, Protestant 18.6%, traditional 2.6%, Catholic 0.7%, other 0.7%*

*EECMY is the 2nd largest Lutheran church in the world.*

**Changes in God’s Work**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO on 15 August. St. Paul is a boarding high school which Deborah and her two brothers, David and Dan, all attended. Hilton College has been a great experience for Ted, but as a family we decided it would be best for Ted to attend high school in the U.S. where he has better communication and can more easily be with siblings and grandparents.

**Move to Ethiopia in June**

In March the LCMS Office of International Mission received an urgent request for help from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY— Mekane Yesus means “place of Jesus”). EECMY is the second largest Lutheran church in the world with about 6,000,000 members. EECMY wants to upgrade their central seminary to a graduate school and they asked LCMS to send missionaries to help with the transition.

In April, LCMS mission leadership asked Carl to visit the Ethiopian semi-



Rebecca Rockrohr will be married to Scott Johnson on August 10th

nary in the capital city of Addis Ababa. Carl’s visit went well, and later in April it was decided that Carl’s attention should shift to Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa as soon as possible.

Dr. Weber, the Rector of LTS, was informed by the LCMS of the need for Carl to be in Ethiopia as soon as possible after the current semester. Carl and Deborah discussed with Dr. Weber the idea that Deborah could stay in South Africa to help finish the academic year at LTS, but Dr. Weber thought it would be better for Deborah to be with Carl right away in Ethiopia. Carl and Deborah’s last official day at LTS will be June 7th. Their actual move to Ethiopia depends on visa application and logistical details that still

have to be considered.

**Other Family Changes: Congratulations to Rebecca and Scott**

In April our daughter Rebecca became engaged to Mr. Scott Johnson. Scott just graduated with his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN this May. He will continue as a graduate student at the seminary. Rebecca’s deaconess internship is in the Ft. Wayne area. Their wedding is set for August 10th so they will be able to start their new studies in Ft. Wayne in September together.

**Paul and Stacy**

Paul has been assigned his vicarage at Luther Memorial Chapel in Shorewood, WI (a suburb of Milwaukee). This fits well with Stacy’s pharma-

## Changes in God's Work

*(Continued from page 2)*

cy internship which is in the Milwaukee area. During this May and June, Paul is at training camp to be a U.S. Navy chaplain. The initial training to be a chaplain takes a number of years, so it remains to be seen if Paul will finally take that route of ministry.

### Jim

Our son Jim began his official career as a U.S. Marine officer in May. He continues his training for a numbers of months. We are thankful to his girlfriend, Megan, (a new graduate herself in the teacher's program of Concordia University Wisconsin) for helping us keep up with news.

### Visitors

For two weeks in May Dr. John Nordling stayed with us as he taught Philippians to LTS advanced and graduate students. He also hosted a braai for the students as well as giving a lecture for a class at the University of Pretoria.



Dr. John Nordling who gave two weeks of lectures on Philippians at LTS also gave a lecture at the University of Pretoria.

### Thank you!

- To Concordia Gospel Outreach (a ministry of Concordia Publishing House) for generously providing Sunday School materials for the deaconess course.
- To Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis for joining the congregations who support our work through the Together In Mission (TIM) program.
- To Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Rector of LTS and Bishop of the LCUSA, for being a gracious and faithful leader and friend to us past 18 months.
- To staff and students at LTS for their friendship and prayers!
- To St. Paul Lutheran Church (Farmington Hills, MI) and Concordia Lutheran School for printing and mailing our newsletter in the U.S. Ms. Beth Scheeres' 2nd grade class stamped, labeled and stuffed the envelopes for this issue. Thank you, 2nd Grade Students!
- For all your prayers on our behalf.

### Thank You for Prayers and Support in this Time of Transition

Dear Friends, we really desire your prayers for our family. We are anxious about being separated from all the children when we are all going through significant changes. At certain points in the coming months we will have four children in four different states, and two parents at opposite ends of the African continent. We thank God that He is also in all of these places!

### Hear us, Lord Jesus

We give thanks to the Lord Jesus for our work and friends made in South Africa the last 18 months. We ask the Lord's guidance in the transition to the new work at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Ethiopia starting in

June. We daily pray that our Lord keep our children and their loved ones safe and in the faith in all their new endeavors in the U.S. And we thank the Lord for you, dear friends—for your interest, support and prayers!

Jesus' peace be with you.



## Deaconess Insights: Growing in Ministry Skills



The deaconess class took a field trip in May to the Lutheran Hour Ministries South Africa Office in Johannesburg. Rev. Siza took the ladies to see the prison ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

This semester has included a lot of learning in 'hand knowledge' – combining head knowledge and heart knowledge (faith) in the practical service that is deaconess ministry.

Teaching in the Sunday school setting was one area of particular focus in the Deaconess Skills course. Aided by Mrs. Karin Niebuhr, a lifelong South African Lutheran and trained teacher, the students learned how children of different ages learn, how to plan a lesson, and how teaching in Sunday school differs from teaching other subjects. Using Concordia Publishing House Sunday School materials provided by Concordia Gospel Out-

reach, the deaconess students took turns teaching Sunday School with about 10-16 elementary school children each week.

For some, this was a first-time experience. When the deaconess students first learned that they would be teaching, they said, "Deaconess, how will we teach them? They can teach us!" Nevertheless, they each approached their task with careful preparation and a measure of bravery. Each week the assigned teacher was aided by an assigned helper, and I was also able to be in the classroom with them as a 'safety net.' And, yes, it does get easier with practice!

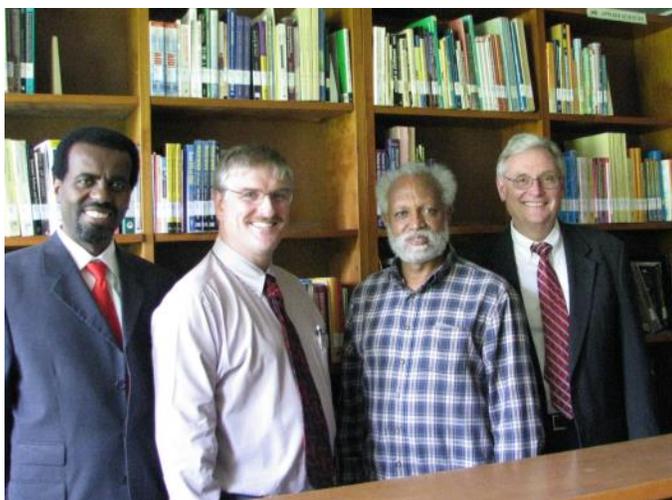
In the Contemporary Issues in Ministry to Women and Children course, each student completed a major project in an area of interest: orphans, child abuse, abortion, HIV/AIDS, widows. We learned how to study the demographic information that informs us of the scope of need, what resources may already be available in the social sector, and how the church might respond in mean-

ingful ways with mercy – practical help combined with the gospel message.

The class also studied grief using Granger Westberg's *Good Grief*, and discussed the work of the deaconess in bringing God's comfort to those who are grieving. We considered miscarriage, cancer and aged care. The work of the deaconess is important in these and other areas, because women in most African cultures do not easily share such intimate concerns with men, including the pastor.

A highlight of the term was a field trip to prison. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has a weekly prison outreach, and we were able to join Rev. Siza Lugojobo on one of his regular Wednesday visits. Again, this was a 'first' for our students, and helped them to see the spiritual needs of this often-forgotten segment of society. We also visited the LHM office, learned about other outreach efforts of LHM, and received a number of booklets on various topics that will be good resources in future ministry.

## Photos of Blessings



April visit to Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dr. Olam (president), Carl, Head Librarian Mr. Berek and Dr. Quill, who is in charge of international theological education for LCMS. Carl and Deborah will be moving to Ethiopia in the coming months.



Ted during field hockey warm up for a Hilton College match at St Charles College in Pietermaritzberg, South Africa. (He has a mouth guard in his mouth.)



On May 5th Ted, Deborah and Carl went for a hike in the foothills in the Sani Pass region of the Drakensberg Mountains.



Go, Ted!

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Carl, Deborah and Ted Rockrohr. (Ted has grown about 5 inches in the last year!)

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our work online:  
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**Move to Ethiopia**



As of 10 June Deborah and Carl will begin their transition to working at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We ask prayers for the move which will take a number of months and for Ted who will start school August 15 in the U.S. at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. We will write much more about the transition when we arrive in Ethiopia in June.

**Carl and Deborah's work will move from South Africa to Ethiopia starting in June. Ted will begin high school in the U.S. in August**