



Rockrohr News and Notes

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Work and Dialogue in Ethiopia

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Ministry Information

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Look for us on Facebook too!



Missionary Work has Many Sides

Dear Friends and Supporters, greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus!

Our missionary work in Ethiopia has many varied tasks. From January 23—27 LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, and Dr. Al Collver, Assistant to the President for Church Relations, visited Ethiopia to further relationships and dialogues with the EECMY. On January 24th the seminary hosted a public forum in which President Harrison was introduced. He spoke on

Carl and Deborah attended several meetings in January in which visiting LCMS President Matthew Harrison and Dr. Al Collver met with the Management Committee of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY).

the Biblical teachings of fellowship and mercy and had a Q&A time. He also played the banjo for the group and then gave his banjo to the MYS School of Music as a gift. The seminary then hosted a lunch for the LCMS visitors, all seminary staff, including many visiting short-term expatriate instructors from Europe. Later in the afternoon President Harrison, Dr. Collver, Carl and Deborah met with the EECMY Management Committee.

The Meanings of Words

The next day included a visit to view renovations of a campus returned to the EECMY from a former communist government seizure. Another meeting for feedback on January 25th included frank discussion of differences between the LCMS and EECMY, but a commitment on both sides to doctrinal discussions. One interesting point was the clarification of the meaning of the word

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Financial Support ...

Our move to Ethiopia to help at Mekane Yesus Seminary has incurred unexpected extra expenses. We greatly appreciate your continued support!

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.

Ethiopia

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"partnership". The EECMY leaders said that to them this word often means sharing work including sharing communion fellowship and sharing pastors. President Harrison clarified that the LCMS understanding was that further discussion of doctrine and practice must take place, and agreements of such must happen before LCMS would consider altar and pulpit fellowship. The EECMY leaders said they now understood better how the LCMS is approaching the EECMY, and that as far as the LCMS has helped so far it is very appreciative.



Deborah visits with (left to right) Claire (Lutheran Bible Translator), Beza (School of Theology Administrative Assistant) and Rev. Abdi (Director of Christian Muslim Relations Program).

Clearly noted in the discussions was the doctrinal difference about the Bible's teaching on women's ordination. There will be other differing points for discussion as well. Yet both LCMS and EECMY

leaders agreed that formal discussions should take place. It was stated that only the Lord knows the outcome of the discussions; full fellowship is not guaranteed but both churches want to talk to one another.



Carl preached at supporting congregation Trinity Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on January 5th.

Carl and Deborah were pleased to be included in the discussions and also pleased with the outcome. Leaders from both churches knew and understood each other's churches a little better. There was good will and openness to the Lord's teaching from the Scriptures.

Books and More Books
In theological education,

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Ethiopia

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Thank you!

- To all who pray for us! The work here is very large, and we often feel like several days' worth of learning and activities are crammed into each day.
- To new congregations and individuals who have joined our regular supporters!
- To our many Ethiopian colleagues who strengthen us.
- To our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, MI who stamped, labeled and stuffed the envelopes for this newsletter.

the study of Scripture, teachings of the Church, Church history and numerous other subjects are critical to pastoral formation. (And for academic accreditation!) Carl has been working with the Head Librarian Mr. Merath-Ab to increase the number of newer theological books in the MYS library. Often these need to be hand-carried into Ethiopia. Initial purchases included a number of books from Concordia Publishing House supported by the LCMS Global Seminary Initiative. In December and January (and continu-



MYS Head Librarian Mr. Merath-Ab with an initial delivery of Concordia Publishing House books for the seminary library.

ing months) about 200 additional books purchased with a Lutheran World Federation grant will be delivered to the library. EECMY President Wakseyoum asked Carl to coordinate the purchase using the LWF grant. Since the EECMY has

never been closely connected to the LCMS, almost all current books from CPH are not in the seminary library. Many new CPH books, as well as from other publishing houses, are now coming to the library.

Visit to Snowy Lands

Since Carl and Deborah had to renew their business visas for Ethiopia they were able to spend Christmas in the U.S. and saw family... and snow, cold, wind, etc.! Being a Milwaukee boy Carl did not mind spending a few weeks in the very cold and snow. A very great blessing was that all of our children were able to get together on one day, December 23rd. This was

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LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison spoke to an assembly of students, staff and EECMY partners in the chapel of Mekane Yesus Seminary on January 24th.

Amharic Proverb

“Slowly by slowly the egg on legs will go.”

This literal translation of an Amharic proverb aptly describes Deborah’s progress in language learning.

We language students begin by knowing nothing or nearly nothing of the language. Bit by bit, we learn a few nouns and verbs. Then we learn some prepositions and connecting words, and begin to start constructing phrases. Amharic has different word forms for each noun and verb depending on whether one is addressing a man, woman or several people, talking about a man or woman or several people, speaking respectfully, or speaking about one’s self.

Bit by bit, words become familiar, then comprehended, and finally, spoken! The egg has incubated and hatched and a chick is scratching around.



Ethiopia

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Carl had the opportunity to shovel the driveway of his mother’s house (Jane Rockrohr) in West Bend, Wisconsin when in the U.S. It brought back many memories of Milwaukee winters!

a very, very joyful gathering!

Visits and Unexpected Illness

Carl and Deborah were able to meet with supporters and have meetings at the LCMS International Center during the time in the U.S. as well. Doctors were visited for check-ups... and we officially caught “Influenza A” for several days so that our return to Ethiopia was delayed a bit.

Ted is Doing Well

Ted spent a lot of time not only with Carl and Deborah but also with older siblings Paul, James and Becky (and spouses/ fiancée). The other chil-

dren being older, married (or almost married) are more or less on their own. But Ted, as a high school freshman, is officially part of our missionary team. He is enjoying life and studies at St Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri and doing well. We were so happy to spend time with him!

2nd Semester Begins

Besides doing the dean’s administrative work, Carl begins teaching again soon. Christology at the MA level and Doctrine II at the B.Th. level. With great joy a second program at the MA level will begin this semester, a MA in Systematic Theology. With this new program many of the newly em-

phasized doctrinal questions in the EECMY can be studied by the students.

Deborah continues her full-time study in Amharic. Carl can see she is really advancing. She is starting to hear words and phrases in Amharic meetings, and her greetings are quite fluent.

Two month fund-raising trip to the U.S.

Carl and Deborah will be available in the U.S. from July 7th to August 20th for greeting, sharing ministry highlights and encouraging prayer and financial support. More information will be in the next newsletter.

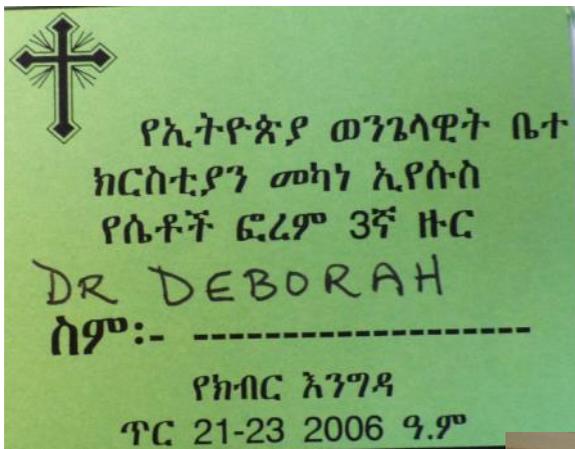
Photos of Blessings



Deborah visits with LCMS President Harrison at the "President's Table" at a lunch hosted by Mekane Yesus Seminary. Many MYS staff and visiting instructors enjoyed the meal.



Carl and Deborah were able to meet with their best supporters on December 23rd (top to down): son Ted; daughter Rebecca and husband Scott; son James and fiancée Megan Frisque; wife Stacy and son Paul. Always in our hearts and prayers!



(Left) Deborah's name tag for the 3rd EECMY National Women's Forum on January 30-31. The tag is written in Amharic, which Deborah is learning. Notice the Ethiopia calendar date at the bottom is the month of **ጥር** (Tirr—5th month) days 21-23 and year 2006.

(Right) LCMS President Rev. Dr. Harrison signs the guest book in the office of EECMY President Rev. Dr. Wakseyoum. This was the first visit of a LCMS president to the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.



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EECMY ladies in traditional Oromo dresses at the EECMY National Women's Forum

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

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Successful start of the 2nd semester at Mekane Yesus Seminary.
- Good Amharic language learning days for Deborah.
- Safe and joyful school days for Ted in Concordia, Missouri. (We miss him!)
- Good administrative plans for Carl as he leads the School of Theology and teaches Christology and Christian doctrine courses.

Your LCMS Missionaries to Ethiopia

Deborah, Carl and Ted Rockrohr thank you for your support!