



# Rockrohr News and Notes

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## Bible Translation in Ethiopia

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bible Translation (cont.)	2
Support Information	2
Congratulations CLS!	3
Thank You!	3
Prayer Requests & Photos	4

### Ministry Information

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*From Deborah:* Learning a new language can provide interesting insights into a culture. We are starting to learn a few Bible Stories in Amharic language class, and the narrative from Matthew 7:24-27 provides a good example of that.

*“The Lazy Man, (His) House, On Sand, (He) Worked.”*

First, the word for “build” a house is the same word which in general means “work”. Context provides the meaning here, and the fluent Amharic speaker will not be confused into

**In late 2013 President Wakseyoum of the EECMY asked Carl to coordinate the purchase of books for the MYS library using funds from a LWF grant. Coordinating with the International Center of the LCMS, 132 books were purchased and have been (and will be) hand delivered to Ethiopia. Shown in the photo is MYS Head Librarian, Mr. Mereth-Ab, standing next to new reference books reserved for MA students.**

thinking that the man was cleaning the house (also “work”) or even doing work of an unspecified nature inside a house already constructed.

Second, nearly every verb and every noun must have an identifier that links it to the person(s) involved. In English the literal translation can only be conveyed through the use of words in parenthe-

ses. These words don’t actually appear in the Amharic, but they are implied through the addition of suffixes and/or prefixes (sometimes more than one added to a single word).

But most amazing to me was the actual word choice for the translation of this Bible narrative. It was initially very disturb-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Bible Translation

(Continued from page 1)

### Support ...

We continue to need to build up our support network. We invite you to share our newsletter with others who may be interested in learning about our work. Thank you for 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](http://www.lcms.org/Rockrohr).

ing to me when our teacher described the man who built his house on sand as "lazy". My English language Bible clearly says the *foolish* man built his house on sand. And, how many lazy men have actually built anything? When I asked about this, my teacher got out her Amharic Bible and read the passage, then said, "yes, but we say lazy". Not wanting to say something about Scripture which it does not clearly say, I later went to talk to Mr. Gedion, Assistant Dean for the B.Th. program at



Deborah has continued teaching many Saturday mornings and even some weekdays to help prepare the second year MA students for the field research of their thesis. Her research experience and guidance for the students have been a great help to the MA program at MYS.

MYS. After hearing my question he asked me, "what do you think it means when you say foolish?" "Well, the opposite

of wise," I replied. Mr. Gedion then explained to me that in Amharic, a foolish person is one who has no mental capacity at all. On the other hand, a lazy person is one who can think and reason, but refuses to use his brain.

So, the lazy man who built his house on sand is the man who heard the Word of God, but was too lazy to use his brain to apply it in his life ... in "Americanese," he was foolish! But, to the Ethiopian, he was lazy! And, the meaning is the same in both cases.



Carl took a quick trip to the U.S. in March to be with son Ted during his Spring Break. They visited our second son, James, who lives in Pensacola, FL (photo from March 8 ) and also saw daughter Becky and her husband Scott near Ft. Wayne, IN. While visiting Becky and Scott there was a 6+ inch snow overnight and Carl got the rental car stuck on a county road for about an hour. From the Florida beach to the Indiana snow, Ted and Dad enjoyed an 8 day holiday together!

## Congratulations CLS!



Many thanks from Carl, Deborah and Ted to students and adults from St. Paul's Preschool and Concordia Lutheran School (Farmington Hills, MI) who helped with our newsletter last month! Church secretary Ginny, who coordinates the mailing, sent this note to us:

*"See attached photo - these are some of your willing volunteers working on this month's newsletter. Today is "Kids Against Hunger" day. Normally, kids go in the gym and wait for the morning bell to ring, but since set-up began early for food packing, we put them in the lunch room. Not one to pass up an opportunity for free labor, I gave them the stacks of newsletters and envelopes to fold & stuff. They made really quick work of all of them, but...[we] found one page (the middle sheet of course) of one newsletter left over at the end. We went through over half the stuffed envelopes before we found the one missing a middle page! Anyway, they will go out this afternoon."*

Congratulations to the students of Concordia Lutheran School, jointly operated by our home church (St. Paul's) in Farmington Hills, and Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford, MI.

*From the April newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, MI:*

"Concordia students recently participated in the AR reading challenge. Accelerated Reading is a program that encourages students to read a book, answer questions online about the book, and earn points. The AR challenge is a contest be-

tween students in Lutheran schools throughout the U.S.A. to earn the most points in a specified time frame, usually about six weeks.

This year, Concordia's 4th grade was first in the nation among all fourth grades; 2nd grade was seventh in the nation. In addition, Concordia was first among the Lutheran schools in Michigan with grades 2, 4, and 8 first among Michigan school, and grades 3, 6, and 7 second."

**Go Knights! We're proud of you!**

*Carl, Deborah and Ted are members at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Before moving to Africa they actively participated in many ways at the two congregations of CLS. Carl preached and taught at both congregations; Deborah was the organist at St. Paul's and Ted attended grade school at both the "north" and "south" campuses of Concordia Lutheran School.*

*We are very proud to support this Lutheran outreach and service of two congregations to the greater Detroit urban area.*

### Thank you!

- For your continued prayers for our health and well-being.
- To our continuing supporting congregations and individuals.
- 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.



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## Websites:

[www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net)  
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**Read more about  
our work online:  
[www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net)**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Prayers for the health of seminary staff and students, many people are ill lately.
- Safe travels for Carl and Deborah to meetings in Kenya in April.
- Blessings and joy for Ted.
- Blessings on Carl's work and health; many days there is far more to do than there is time and his energy allows.



This tortoise is a frequent visitor to the backyard of our apartment on the seminary campus.

## Your LCMS Missionaries to Ethiopia



Rev. Dr. William Schumacher from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis has joined Carl and Deborah for two months to teach two MA systematic theology courses. He is the Director of Institute for Mission Studies and Mission Associate Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary.