NEW NEWS-BIG NEWS

This past summer many of you heard me say things were being worked out with the specifics of my position here in Ethiopia for this year. After several months of waiting, I can now officially announce to you all what’s happening with Mission of Christ Network here in Ethiopia!

MCN has officially entered into a partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), what we might identify as the Lutheran Church here. With this has come a job offer for me at the Mekane Yesus Seminary to teach, tutor, and counsel students. The seminary is a unique place because it does not simply train pastors. Perhaps it can be thought of a bit like the Concordia system, where there are other majors that can be studied in addition to Theology. This brings in a wider range of students, bringing the opportunity to work with all sorts. There is equipping of those who wish to be church workers and are Christian, and there is also working with those who are on a different track.

Praise God for His provision and seeing this through!

Funds: 100%
I am fully funded for the 2020-2021 term! Thank you for helping me to end 2020 in this way; I am so grateful for your generosity, especially in a year like this!

Prayers
1: Finalizing my work schedule
2: Sorting my paperwork for work in Ethiopia
3: Relationships w/students & staff
4: Teaching faithfully

Culture Corner
January 19 is, perhaps, the biggest holiday of the year: Timket or celebrating Jesus' baptism as well as a procession of the Ark of the Covenant.

January 7: Gena Orthodox Christmas is celebrated in Ethiopia; we celebrated killing a chicken (see below).

Doro Wot
The “national dish” is made of chicken and is typically served for holidays.

January 19: Timket
“The Ark” is said to be in Ethiopia, so each church processes a replica through the streets.
Story Corner: Christians?

Eighteen students, ranging from their first to third year, sat at desks with an attempt at “appropriate COVID spacing.” It was the first day of Spiritual Formation class, and we’d already finished with the syllabus and course expectations. Nitty-gritty time.

In our first topic of “Spirituality,” I posed the question: “What makes someone a Christian? How do you know they are one?” The room was silent for an uncomfortable stretch (at least for the talkative American), but finally, the answers which followed were primarily what I’d expected. Then came the follow up: “So... how are you doing with that?”

Even as the asker, it was convicting. There was an abrupt recognition of how short we fall from what the world, ourselves included, expects Christians to be. Are we truly loving and serving in ways that represent the face of Christ accurately to the world?

This semester has provided a context to unpack that and challenge many (myself included) to personally reflect on our callings as Christians. It’s going to be great!

PHOTOS

Top: This is one of a few large metal objects located around campus with such a message.

Middle: Outside the classroom I am operating all of my current classes from.

Bottom: We, too, are becoming familiar with Google Classroom around here, though it is a struggle for most students to use it still.