

Household of Believers

Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8)

It's natural to share the Gospel with the members of our family household. We have many opportunities to apply God's Word as we spend time together with people we love. However, it can also be very difficult to share our faith with our family, because no one knows our weaknesses and failures better than the members of our own household.

Nearly one out of two Ethiopians are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the historic faith of the Ethiopian nation. Although there is freedom of religion in Ethiopia, Christians of other Protestant denominations make up a very small minority. Yet in spite of these significant cultural challenges, the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia (LCE) is growing, as its members share their faith one household at a time.

The Household of Lam Nhial Luak

Lam Nhial Luak is an ethnic Nuer Sudanese who was born in Ethiopia and lived in the Gambella refugee camp. In his late teens, Lam became a Christian and began preaching God's Word to his fellow refugees. His church elders sent him to Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, where he observed how some senior pastors and teachers played up their ethnic and tribal identities to the point where it caused bad feelings and divisions among the students.



Lam Nhial Luak

Lam was ready to leave after two years at Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary when he met Dr. Allen Sorum, the director of the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. At his advice, Lam completed his degree at Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, and then in 2020, he enrolled at the LCE's school of ministry, Maor Lutheran Theological Seminary, located in the city of Bishoftu.

Lam moved to Bishoftu with his household. His nephew Akot Tut Luak was baptized and confirmed along with three of Lam's own children. May God use these young Nuer Christians to help Lam build the Lutheran church in Gambella.

The Household of Col. Berhanu Merka Bedecho

Colonel (ret.) Berhanu Merka Bedecho has been the Chairman of the General Assembly of the LCE since its beginning. Col. Berhanu Merka served in the Ethiopian Air Force in Bishoftu until his retirement. His consistent Christian life and example led his brother Yohannes Merka Bedecho and sister-in-law Tsehay Godana Halala to visit and join the LCE.



The baptism of Yohannes and Tsehay's children

Coming from a Calvinist background, Tsehay and their two children were baptized in the LCE. Yohannes is also an officer in the Ethiopian Air Force and works as a soldier, nurse, and pharmacist helping soldiers on the war front in Ethiopia and in neighboring South Sudan as part of the Peace Keeping Force for the past two years.

The Household of Berhanu Badebo

Berhanu Badebo is currently serving in the Defense Force of Ethiopia. Coming from a Muslim background, Christ brought him to faith about fifteen years ago. After

hearing the preaching of an evangelist from the Lutheran church near his home village, Berhanu Badebo was baptized and immediately deployed to the war front in northern Ethiopia. During a recent short leave from military duty, he saw the LCE's sign and cross with Luther's seal on top of their G+4 building.



The four members of the Berhanu Badebo household joined the LCE. Berhanu Badebo confirmed his faith as a Lutheran and then returned to the war front. After careful and lengthy instruction his wife Hana Adem Wako, who also comes from a Muslim background, confirmed her faith in Christ in the presence of her husband and their two children. Hana is very happy that the Holy Spirit led her to confess Jesus as her Savior.

The Household of Kebede Getachew Yigezu



Rev. Dr. Kebede Getachew Yigezu is the LCE's founder and President of Maor Lutheran Theological Seminary. Like the teaching household of Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26), the members of the Kebede's household are actively involved in leading instruction classes for new members of the LCE. Rev. Dr. Kebede's son Efrem, who is currently studying for the ministry at Maor Lutheran Theological Seminary, led Berhanu Badebo through 32 lessons of Adult Instruction Class. Rev. Dr. Kebede's wife Genet Degefa Edea met with Berhanu Badebo's wife Hana twice a week to teach her Luther's Catechism. Rev. Dr. Kebede himself taught Lam's three

children and his nephew, as well as Yohannes and Tsehay. We join with the LCE in celebrating the historic confirmation of these seven new members and ask God to continue building up the household of believers in Ethiopia (Gal. 6:10).

Missionary John Roebke lives in Malawi and is the Director of Communications for One Africa Team

Learn more about WELS mission work in the United States and in other countries around the globe at <https://tasteofmissions.com/>