



September 2022

Dear Friends,

As I'm writing this letter, school has started again for most American students. The students at the Mekane Yesus (Place of Jesus) Seminary in Addis Ababa, however, won't be back in the classroom until the third week in September.

Among the students at the seminary training for pastoral ministry are a group preparing themselves for a compassionate Christ-like witness among their Muslim neighbors. These are the students in the Christian/Muslim Relations program, which I have been called to help revitalize. Among them are established pastors and other church leaders who have been awakened to the need to empower their members for this witness among their Muslim neighbors who represent 40% of the Ethiopian population.

I've been team teaching several courses for these students using a hybrid online/onsite course model I created during the pandemic. I was also privileged to meet them in person when I was on campus for a program review in February and March (the first time this has been done since the program was established in 2002). I will be meeting new students at the end of September when I do a follow-up trip to work with professors and staff in implementing the recommendations that came out of the program review. I look forward to that, as I am always inspired by the high level of commitment among these students. It is humbling to meet these missional leaders working as they are on the frontlines of one of the most challenging ministries facing the Church today.

It's on their behalf that I offer a word of thanks to you for your ongoing support. Some of that support is helping to fund scholarships for these students, which is the only way they could be in the program at all. The rest is helping me equip the equippers as I work with Ethiopian colleagues to find the best way to educate these students on their vital God-given calling.



The students who graduated from the BTh (Bachelor of Theology) program on graduation day in June.



Here are the first graduates of the new MA program.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

To this end, I would ask your prayers for the following:

- An excellent potential candidate to be the first director of the Study Center we hope to create on campus, as well as giving much-needed instruction in the CMR program, will be traveling with me to Ethiopia at the end of September. He is going to help in the discernment process he and his wife are going through to determine whether or not this will be a full-time calling for them. I am impressed with their enthusiasm for this possibility. Pray that God will give clarity through this trip.
- One of the great needs of the program (which I discovered in my program review) is the lack of updated material for the library. Most of the books are at least twenty or thirty years old (and not always helpful for the subject matter of the courses). This summer I have been working with the Theological Book Network in Grand Rapids to find suitable books to expand the library's holdings. I am pleased to say that I have been able to identify 196 volumes which will be part of a larger shipment going to the seminary at the end of this year. I praise God for this and ask for prayers that all goes well with ensuring that these books get through.
- Just this week we received news that the civil conflict, which was in a dormant stage for the past months, has heated up again. Most tragic was the bombing of a school in the northern province of Tigray, where rebel forces are fighting against the government.

[Ethiopia Resumes Tigray Airstrikes In Resurged Conflict | MENAFN.COM](https://www.menafn.com/ethiopia-resumes-tigray-airstrikes-in-resurged-conflict)

Pray for peace.

Blessings in Christ,

John Hubers

RCA Missionary partner in Ethiopia