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Witness Always



TRIBUTE TO ETHIOPIAN THEOLOGIAN GEDION ADUNGA

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On the morning the LCMS Mission Summit began, Nov. 19, 2015, I received a text message at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. stating that Gedion Adugna, the associate dean of Theology at the Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS) in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, had been murdered. Gedion was walking to his home from MYS when the assault occurred, the purpose of which may have been robbery.

Only 33 years old, Gedion left behind his pregnant wife, Ayantu Shiferaw, and a young son. His sudden and evil death left his family, the seminary community and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in shock and sadness. His death also affected many within the LCMS who worked with him and came to appreciate his love for the Gospel and the Lutheran Confessions.

Gedion Adugna was born in Debre Berhan, Ethiopia. He received a degree in Church History from the MYS before serving the Central Ethiopia

Synod, coordinating its youth department. After two years of service with the synod, he was invited to teach at the seminary in 2009. In 2011, he completed a Masters of Theology at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology and continued serving the MYS as a teacher and associate dean.

The LCMS Global Seminary Initiative (GSI) had awarded Gedion a scholarship to attend a Missouri Synod seminary. Gedion had been accepted into Ph.D. programs at both Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was awaiting a visa from the United States government to attend one of the seminaries.

Gedion was a promising Lutheran theologian who would have been a great asset to his church and to the seminary he served. (See an interview with Gedion at https://youtu.be/_WBkcFRhPDs). The Lord in His wisdom determined another course. Blessed are the deaths of the saints in the eyes of the Lord.

THE ESSAYS IN THIS ISSUE ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF GEDION ADUNGA.