

Elyard August 2025 Update



Anthony and Trudi Elyard

Serving the Lord in Ethiopia



“Rejoice always! Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Friends,

Our latest update is filled with some goodbyes, new insights and our relocation from

Dila to Addis Ababa. It is more of a report of what has happened; however, we hope it helps you understand how life rolls along here. Being here has been made possible by your faithfulness through prayer, encouragement and support. We are grateful for your partnership in the gospel.

Goodbyes

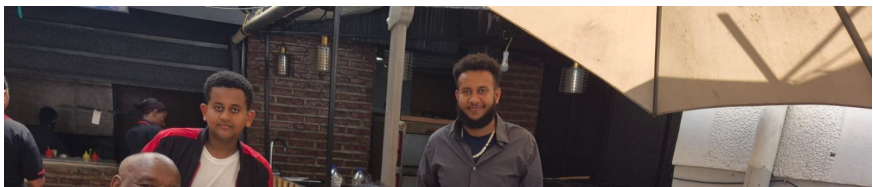
The joy of celebrating and recognising friendships



Tizita



Alem generously gave us corn and also served a meal with her family





Lunch with our long-term friends (Pastor Feru and his family, Mulu, Tsegaye and Alemaye)

Celebrating language learning

Frey (our language teacher) and her children joined us for lunch in celebration of our time learning Amharic. We are so grateful for CMS prioritising language learning so intentionally, and for your encouragement along the way. Although, we have finished full-time lessons, language and cultural understanding will be a long-term pursuit as we seek to know the hearts of the people we are with. And we have arrived in Dila which has a local language, Gedeo, for us to familiarise ourselves with, even as we immerse ourselves into Amharic!





An Australian visitor

Our friend, Lyndal, popped in for 4 day visit. It was so easy, fun and exactly what we needed; to have a friend we have known for so many years fill our time with joy. She also filled our cupboards with yummy treats including breakfast cereal (for Anthony), nuts and CHOCOLATE! It's strange what you miss. She also delivered an enormous box filled with T-shirts, beanies and Whitehorse coffee from Dom, the owner of Trudi's favourite cafe, The Brickpit café, in Kirrawee. The irony is not lost on Trudi that the coffee was sourced from the Dila area.

Joining with fellow academics

The Bible College lecturers attend a training conference annually. This was a four day conference, discussing current issues in the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) and in Amharic. This has given us much to think about: orderly gatherings (looking at the role of singers), tribalism, tent-making vs full-time, favouritism, selection of college students, self-sustainability of the Bible Colleges, influences of sociocultural practices in the church, improving capacity of teachers, and why Bible Colleges exist.

Some of the issues discussed seemed to have obvious answers to us, however, we are reminded that cultural competency is required to understand the hearts of the

people and the context we are in. These issues are deeply rooted in culture and historical teachings from missionaries, which have resulted in disunity in the church. We are praying that God keeps our hearts and minds open to seeking how to respond in these areas.

We met so many new people. Anthony was asked by 11 of the 18 Colleges to be a guest lecturer. We ask ourselves if that is physically possible! However, this reflects the need for qualified teachers who can strengthen the colleges, and in turn the students as they return to their local churches.

Preparing for our new location

We arrive back from the conference exhausted.

The next day (Friday) Anthony and our housemate Sami had a conversation, which went something like this...

A: We are really tired and would like a couple of days break before packing. Maybe organise the truck for next Wednesday.

About lunch time Friday

S: I have organised the truck. It will come on Sunday evening to be packed and will leave at 4am Monday morning.

We hadn't packed a thing and had plans over the weekend.

Needless to say, it was a busy weekend saying goodbyes, organising our flights and preparing the house for departure.





Anthony with the removalist truck

We arrived in Dila with a warm welcome, including a celebration and coffee ceremony from our neighbours and coworkers.



Welcome cake



Welcome coffee ceremony





Speeches in our front yard

Zelalem, the principal of Dila Bible College

Our new church



Go to the image above to see a video of children and grown-ups joyfully singing at our church, which holds 1000 people. You can also watch it [here](#).

Our house

The new place is in a beautiful location, on a large, safe compound that is surrounded by a river and forest. A family of monkeys visits us each day and a squirrel pops its head through the trees now and then.

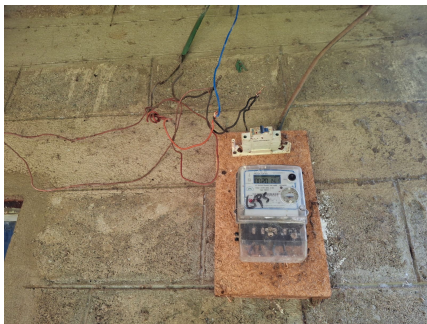
However, the house, in real estate terms, could be described as a “renovator’s delight”, “epitome of opportunity”, and “full of potential” although it has “good bones”. It is about 40 years old and hasn’t been lived in for over 10 years, was very “tired” with “original décor”.

With this in mind, there has been a lot in motion. Sami (our housemate) has been a

champion and is in his element organising and getting hands-on.

This is all that has been achieved in a week:

- Rats had had a field day in the remnants left by previous tenants; therefore, a major clean-out was required
- Electricity needed earthing and rewiring. Switches and light fittings replaced. Some lights were turned on by connecting live wires!
- Water came directly from the spring and bucketing it indoors. But now, PRAISE GOD (said very loudly), it is coming through the taps. The supply is still an issue but there is a solution in sight.
- The toilet was not working, but the sound of the flush now brings joy.
- Bathroom tiles were broken with jagged edges need replacing, and tiles have been found for this.
- Broken windows and locks have been fixed, although fly screens remain elusive and are needed to prevent malaria.
- Black mould in kitchen cabinets and hallway cupboards, along with collapsed wardrobes and shelving from termite damage are being replaced as I write this.
- Painting has been planned for next week.



Electricals



Water problem solving at the spring

Despite all of the above, we have been content. God has answered our prayers in this way. The preparation God has given us through our lives (our own home renovations, camping and many relocations), along with the great teaching from SAH about vulnerable mission, has helped us trust Him amongst the chaos.

It is very relaxing here. Green and it kind of feels like camping as we listen to the river flowing, birds call and night life. It's a beautiful place.

We look forward to seeing how God will lead us and how life here pans out.



*Go the image above to see our house and its surrounds (if you are yet to see it).
You can also watch this video [here](#).*

Give thanks

- That the Bible College conference was a good time of meeting with other academics and a time to wrestle with current issues that are affecting the church.
- For Frey (our language teacher), for her diligence and understanding of our needs while language learning. She considers this her ministry to further strengthen skills needed for the gospel's sake. Give thanks that now she will have a well-deserved break and be able to spend more time with her children.
- For the easy and joyful visit from Lyndal, our long-term friend.
- For lovely goodbyes with friends in Addis Ababa.

- For a warm welcome to Dila.
- That the house, while still needing repairs, is now functional.
- For contentment

Please pray

- For one of Anthony's sisters, who was diagnosed with lung cancer and had surgery last week. It went really well and was contained in the lung, so no further surgery is required. Anthony's other sister had surgery for the same issue some years ago (both non-smokers) so Anthony will have screening and genetic testing when he returns to Australia next.
- As we continue to apply ourselves to communicate and be lifelong learners in Amharic, so that we can engage in the heart language of the people we meet.
- That we can settle quickly into our new home, become familiar with our surroundings and meet people.
- That we would balance the need to be cautious about making friends too quickly and our desire to engage with others. Please pray for wisdom.



From Anthony and Trudi



Email: atelyard@cms.org.au

Profile: cms.org.au/elyardat

Give: give.cms.org.au/elyardat

Facebook

Instagram





CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work with churches to set apart godly people as long-term cross-cultural gospel workers. Our vision is for a world that knows Jesus. We aim to do this by: reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ, equipping Christians as leaders in the church and the world, and engaging churches in cross-cultural mission.

This email was sent by: CMS NSW & ACT
Level 5, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 AU

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Update preferences](#) [Unsubscribe](#)