

Elyard July 2025 Update



Anthony and Trudi Elyard

Serving the Lord in Northern Ethiopia



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your prayers, encouragement through emails and to those who have only just started receiving the updates. As you will see below they are so very important.

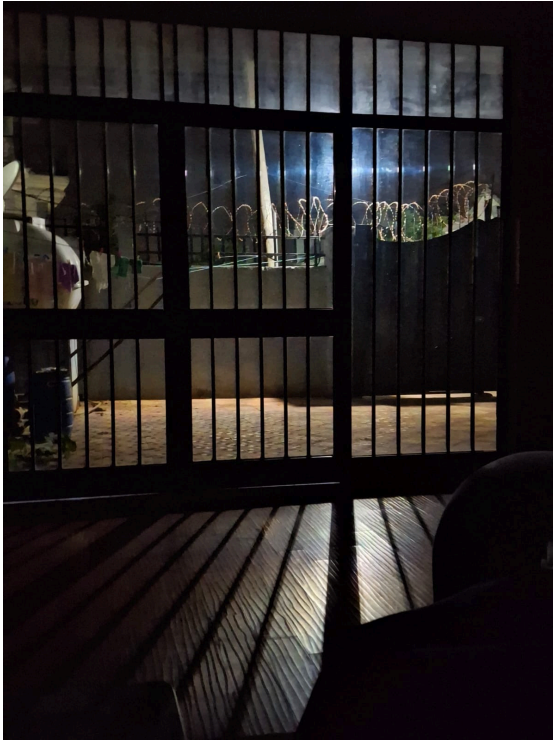
Welcome to St Philip's Caringbah

It is a joy to have St Philip's Caringbah join in partnership for "Ethiopia to know Jesus". Anthony and I spent our early Christian years at St Phil's, being wisely mentored and taught what it means to be mission minded and faithful in all aspects of life. We are so grateful to those who have already been praying for us and look forward to getting to know those we have not met as of yet.

Lower Mountains Anglican Parish (LMAP)

During their recent CMS day, many people contributed to a video with messages full of kind and thoughtful comments.

Thank you!



A bit of a low time

At times we have felt like we have been living in a void. One night Trudi couldn't sleep and took this picture from the lounge. At this time, we felt trapped, lacked direction and felt stagnant. We asked ourselves, "How can we stay motivated for the next few months before moving to the Bible college?" However, we have been reminded that it is as we live in God's ways that he works. God asks that we faithfully live for him.

Living for Jesus wherever we are and whatever we do



We were invited for a meal at Allem's house. She was delighted that we accepted the invitation, as she thought we may feel it is below us, given her humble home and her work as a vegetable seller (the 'gulit set' in last month's update).

Timnet, our neighbour, stated that she has been watching and listening and has seen that our household lives differently, treating others well in both good and bad situations. Last week Timnet accepted Christ. Pastor Feru went to a dinner with her and ordered chicken wings. Within earshot of the waiter, she immediately refused to eat with him because she was fasting from animal products (an Orthodox Christian practice). Pastor Feru asked her how food can secure her salvation. He explained salvation through Jesus. Sometime later the waiter arrived with the food and surprise was evident on his face because Timnet was praying for forgiveness and repentance and then promptly started eating the chicken wings!

Another guy who owns a print house has asked questions because he has been sneaking a peek at the photocopying Anthony has been ordering. He asked Sami (who lives with us) how we, as believers, know peace.

We never know when and where God will reveal himself to others. We praise him!

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Language

So with that important lesson in mind, we give our language learning to God to grow. Our language has continued to build, although we had not realised how much of a negative impact the early months at the language school have had on us. Our prayer is that the anxiety we experienced will now stay in the past as we build confidence while learning to engage with those around us.

Where are we going next?

And the \$50 million dollar question has been answered!

Last week, we made the decision on which Bible College we will go to. We are going to Dila Bible College (in the Southern Nations Region). Dila Bible College has responded, saying the "whole compound shouted with joy" when they heard the

news. We are getting excited for the new chapter, although we don't move until August.

Go to the image below to watch a video of the house, or go [here](#).



Dila house



Complete with resident vultures

There is so much need for good Bible teaching here. The Prosperity gospel has infiltrated the evangelical church, only a fraction of the church leaders are trained and the churches themselves don't value Bible College training and prefer the privately owned short courses that have no oversight and are pretty much a 'buy your degree' school.



Academic staff at Evangelical Theological College (ETC)

Both of us have started to dip our toe into the academic world in Ethiopia. We have helped with some marking and Anthony will teach Biblical Theology at ETC for two weeks in July.



Barkot at his graduation ceremony

It was a pleasure to attend Barkot's graduation ceremony. He received the award of Masters of Theology alongside an academic excellence award. Please pray for faithfulness and strength in his new role as principal at Bahir Dar Bible College and

as the church faces continued upheaval, including leadership challenges and effects from the conflict in the region.



Left/above: Anwar, CMS co-mission partner, Dean of students at ETC and head of Islamic studies

It was a privilege to join Anwar and his family at church and for a meal in their home. We are encouraged by his faithfulness; despite the persecution he and his brother have faced in the past months, as Muslim background believers, including facing a bloodthirsty crowd, a stint in gaol on false accusations and then followed by the accusers apologising.

Give thanks

- Timnet, our neighbour, has accepted Jesus as her saviour
- The print house owner as he explores what it means to have peace in his life
- Connections with the Bible College network as we learn what is required from us
- The encouragement and support of St Phils and LMAP
- Our mothers are both better after their acute illnesses, although continue with ongoing health issues. Please pray that they know the love and comfort of our Lord Jesus.

Please pray

- That we can develop the skills to continue growing in competency during our final months of full-time language learning.
- As we prepare to go to Dila Bible college in August and all that entails.
- The upcoming visit from Peter Sholl (CMS National director) and his wife Sarah, for our pastoral visit.
- For Barkot and Anwar, as they train pastors and evangelists, while also navigating the challenges they face, including conflict and persecution.
- Our continued trust in God's faithfulness wherever we are, continuing to remember that it is God's work, not ours.

From Anthony and Trudi



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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.



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