

Elyard May 2026 Update



**Anthony and Trudi Elyard**

*Serving the Lord in Ethiopia*

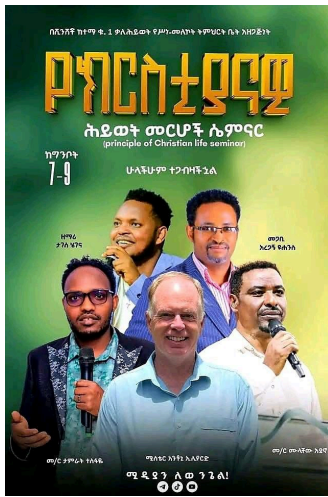


*“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

Dear Friends,

Praise God for his goodness and provision as we prepare for our home assignment (15 June to 15 September). CMS has allocated housing for us at Peakhurst and the NSW & ACT office has been quickly filling our calendar with church visits, pastoral and administrative meetings, as well as personal and spiritual enrichment times. As we wind up our first term in Ethiopia, we pray we can continue to stay focused on being here and not remove our minds before our bodies.

**Shinshicho Bible College**



*Seminar advertising*



*The congregation Anthony preached to in Shinshicho.*

Anthony has been teaching at Shinshicho Bible College. His two-week stint covers two student groups. The Biblical Theology course aims to connect the whole Bible in its context. As we hear, this is new teaching and pushes against the notion that only the New Testament is needed. He also has teaching for evangelists, preaching and various other commitments. He agreed to teach at what he thought was a seminar, only to find out 5000 people are expected!

Amazingly, God provided the fuel needed for the journey. Various permissions are needed for fuel to be obtained and the timing right. The price went up by 30 cents per litre this month alone, more than doubling in 9 months. The rising costs have significantly impacted people, and therefore church incomes, and many students have found their funding not being enough or discontinued.

## **College accreditation**

As mentioned previously, the college is undergoing an accreditation process. This has meant Anthony directing the other academics in their part of the report writing. The report was assessed and feedback given. The amendments have been completed, with only a few external reports outstanding. This process of self-assessment will be ongoing and a challenge to the status quo attitude that has prevailed.

Trudi has been coordinating the maintenance aspect of the accreditation. Her dad laughed when told of this. He was assured that she was not actually doing the work, rather doing the job of “asurar” or making it happen. This often looks like she is standing around, however, there is much discussion and without her presence, the work probably won’t get done.



*Work being done to unblock draining pipe to reduce water pools and mosquito breeding. Sami (right) is working with little more than a metal pile and rope.*



*Women working tirelessly to feed up to 70 hungry students per day. The college kitchen, where meals are prepared, is slowly being repaired to address the leaks, lack of ventilation, broken bread oven and disintegrating cooking areas.*

Trudi was able to give some training based on Matthew 25 using the parable of stewarding bags of gold (using all of what God has given to individuals and as a college for his purposes and glory) and follow it up with training as to how to use what is already in hand to address issues. The school, through lack of funds, has been left to the elements of time. This task has been further hampered by the ongoing fuel crisis and rapid inflation decreasing contributions from churches. So Trudi, along with our wonderful coworker and Jack of all trades, Sami, have been looking at low-cost ways to address the issues. Trudi has also been trying to work with the ground crew/maintenance workers to capitalise on the vast array of fruit trees and other resources to bring in much needed cash. Unfortunately, there continues to be an issue with ownership of the task and understanding that participation is needed for these efforts to be productive and money found for essential maintenance tasks. Thus, we continue to look for creative and contextual ways to meet our goals, while teaching principles of sustainability and that God has given us all resources to use for this purpose.



*Training on how to prepare and plant seedlings in Trudi's garden.*



*The beginnings of the new garden.*

Trudi is establishing a market style garden at our home to demonstrate how the land can be used and be an example to the rest of the college community by putting her teaching into action. The soil is fertile and produces abundantly. A young man named Agelgi (meaning servant of the Lord; a lovely young man who is living up to his name) has been hired to care for the garden, keep the weeds at bay and scare the monkeys away. Fences are needed and many ideas are still to transpire. This is a task in progress with 100 papaya seedlings raising their heads alongside carrots, tomatoes, spinach, garlic, onions, lettuce and a variety of "Australian" foods such as beans, cucumbers, zucchini and orange sweet potatoes. It has been lovely to be able to go to the garden to pick an avocado or mango, eat bananas, flavour with oregano, shallots, rosemary, mint and lemongrass, or drink herbal teas like hibiscus flower or verbena. And all from the garden. We thank God for his provision in this way and pray that others will see and follow in both word and action.

## **Give thanks**

- For the CMS NSW & ACT office as they do a lot of the back end of administrative tasks as we prepare for our home assignment.
- For Anthony's time of teaching at Shinshicho.
- For the provision of fuel.
- For the garden and training about stewarding all we have.
- For the excitement building as we anticipate seeing family and friends so soon.

## **Please pray**

- As we prepare for home assignment.
- For the Mission Up Close LIVE evenings.
- As we continue to seek friendships locally.
- For more people to be trained to strengthen their churches so that people can know about Jesus.

*From Anthony and Trudi*



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