

Elyard April 2026 Update



**Anthony and Trudi Elyard**

*Serving the Lord in Ethiopia*



*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2*

Dear Friends,

We hope you had a wonderful Easter as you celebrated our risen Lord Jesus.

## **Thank you for your continued partnership**

Your continued partnership and messages have been so encouraging to us. Especially in light of the flatness we felt over the last months as we have been navigating the constant and low level stresses we have been dealing with. We received a note from an older lady who was worried she was not doing enough to

support us. We praise God for her prayers and concern for us as she told us she prays daily for people to come to know Jesus. What a gift!



*Anthony with students in front of Kale Hewet Church*

## **Home assignment is coming up**

In two months, we will start our home assignment (June 15 - September 15). As we are doing a two-year rotation, rather than 4 years, we will be visiting four churches this time around: CBC Caringbah (Caringbah Baptist Church), St Phil's Caringbah, Cabra Anglican and St James Turamurra. There will be time also to reboot, visit family and friends and attend medical appointments (grrrr).

## **Mission Up Close LIVE: mark your diary**

 CMS *Mission* UP CLOSE LIVE 2026

*Stories from Africa*



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You may like to catch up with us at Mission Up Close LIVE. The theme is 'Stories from Africa'. Simon Gillham will preach and we, along with Mike and Katie Taylor (Tanzania) and Ryan and Lynne Verghese (Seychelles), will tell stories.

There are two events in two different locations:

**1 August**

St Anne's Ryde

6.30pm - 9.00pm

**8 August**

Narellan Anglican Church

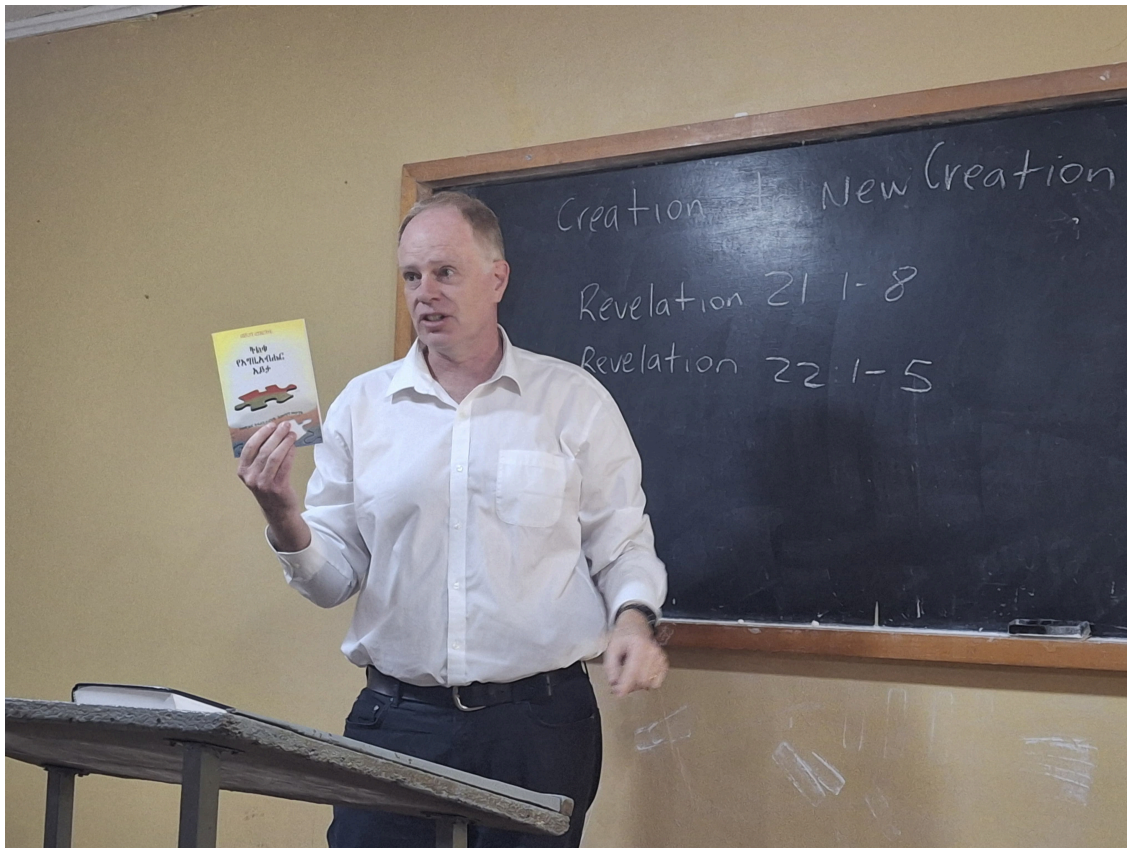
6.30pm-9.00pm

We would love you to come along and be part of these events, seeing this as an opportunity to deepen existing partnerships and meet new members of the fellowship.

Online registration is now open and will close once capacity is reached.

For more information, please visit the event pages: [cms.org.au/muclive](https://cms.org.au/muclive)

## Teaching



*Anthony teaching at chapel*

Second trimester has now finished. Anthony's classes of Old Testament poetic books and World Mission have been well received. Trudi continues with English teaching and how to be most helpful and respond to the students' needs rather than being exam focused.

At chapel we have been focusing on God's relationship with his people and the use of context as key to understanding. Anthony's overview of the Bible was keenly attended and Vaughan Roberts Amharic version of God's Big Picture was offered at cost price and 65 of the 74 students bought copies. The idea that the Bible is one connected story is new and has been eye opening.

Bate (pronounced Barti), a student from a remote area, told us that Anthony's teaching is different. When asked why, he responded that the classes are planned, notes can be used afterwards and back up what is said. He added that the examples given to demonstrate the point help him understand how he can teach others. He then excitedly said, "Anthony cares for us." What a testimony to the great training we have in Australia and the opportunity God has given us to share this with others.

## **A clear goal**

When we came to Ethiopia, we had a clear goal:

*To strengthen through theological education, so that churches can be strengthened and churches can strengthen their communities as they make Jesus known.*



*Having coffee with Tegene, who is a regional leader in Metzer, Jinka.*

## **We keep asking ourselves “How can we be better teachers?”**

Many students have already been involved in key leadership roles as local pastors or in district and zonal level positions. And as such, we have seen it as an important step to get to know the students better within their contexts. One issue has been access. The roads are often 4WD only and churches in remote locations.

## **So, we have bought a car through a loan from CMS**

Buying the car was only made possible through a generous loan from CMS. Thank you, that through such a generous fellowship of believers, you, this was made possible.

The decision was not made without much prayer and discussion. Vehicles are about 3-4 times what we pay for them in Australia. We bought a 2008 Toyota Prado which is an ex-UN vehicle that has been serviced regularly and well maintained. A rare find. Last year, an Ethiopian friend found the car and thought that we should buy it. At the time we were adamant we didn't need a car. With forethought he bought it anyway and recently offered it to us at the price he bought it, despite the market cost increasing. What a blessing to us.

*Disclaimer: Even though we bought a car, local methods are still used for deliveries, especially since there is a scarcity of fuel.*

## Jinka

This helped us to visit Jinka (above). There was an issue of obtaining fuel to get back, with lines going for kilometres. However, God made it possible with numerous permissions being needed including the college director, police, local government, transport office and local government soldiers.



*People attentively listening to Anthony's teaching at Gomer church, Jinka.*

Jinka is a place about 10 hours' drive from us. The students' areas are 4WD access or on foot only. It was a delight to visit the student's area, such a beautiful place, and we were warmly welcomed. Our plans were to observe and learn. However, the students had other thoughts. We were busy the whole time. Anthony taught biblical theology. There was an audible gasp when he explained that the covenant promise God made with Abraham - that is if Abraham sinned then God would die in his place - was connected to Jesus dying in our place. Trudi taught in a way that practically connected people's lives with evangelism through topics such as clean water and friendships. One group of poor women said that if Trudi stayed, they could not offer much, but they promised to feed her. What an enormous gift and encouragement.



*With the students on our way to Jinka (L to R: Alex (pastor), Tilahun (regional director), Tegene, Trudi, Mesay (singer), Anthony, Shimelis (pastor), Yonas (pastor) and Samual)*

The students, and their congregations, were greatly encouraged as they saw the value of biblical teaching and its practical implications being demonstrated. They have continued to ask when we are going back again. Their concerns are that there are a lot of false teachings and they are under constant persecution. As you can see there are many opportunities to encourage leaders and churches.



*Beautiful surroundings of Wibhammer*

## **Give thanks**

- That the trimester 2 courses have ended well with good feedback from the students.
- For the access that owning a car brings and the forethought and generosity of our friend here in Ethiopia as we partner for the gospel.
- The time spent in Jinka teaching and supporting Bible college students in their roles as leaders.
- The opportunity that we have had to learn about the students' context and setting.
- Encouragement from the people we taught and hospitality shown to us.

## **Please pray**

- As we prepare for home assignment.
- 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*

## PROJECT GALLOWAY

*Caring for missionaries during home assignment*

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Project Galloway is an \$8 million dollar project, to provide co-located housing for CMS missionaries on home assignment. A block of 11 units on Galloway St in North Parramatta has been fully renovated and several missionaries have commenced their stay. This purchase was made possible thanks to God's provision through the generosity of past and present CMS supporters. With just under \$1.8 million left to raise, could you consider making a generous donation? If you would like to contribute, please go [here](#).



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