



Anthony and Trudi Elyard

Serving the Lord in Northern Ethiopia



Dear Friends,

We have been so encouraged by your willingness to partner with us as we work toward being sent to Northern Ethiopia to join the leaders of the Kale Heywet church (KHC) with their goal to support and equip leaders.

The messages sent to us after Summer School and our last update have spurred us on; introductions from people who are partnering despite not knowing us, some saying "Hi" or telling us that they prayed, while others asking questions. These messages show, as a body of believers, the desire to make Jesus known.



February seems to have built up from a break away on the coast earlier in the month to busily planning what is next; new activities, routines and catch ups. It feels like the morning rush after a lazy sleep in. On one hand we want to go back to the relaxation of holidays, on the other hand we want to be in Ethiopia now.

Have you ever wanted to do one thing and feel like there are things beyond your control that are getting in the way?

We are thankful for the opportunities for rest, enabled by the generosity of a couple from the CMS fellowship, and are grateful for the church partnerships that have been formed, along with plans for visits. However, these plans don't seem to be emerging in the way that we had planned; our time away was interrupted by work commitments and Anthony has been called for jury duty with a potential for an 8-week trial. We are once again reminded that it is not what happens in our lives, but rather our identity in Christ demonstrated through love and trust in Him, and our engagement with people around us whatever the circumstance, that truly matters.



We join in thankful praise for the safe arrival of a son to Mersha, a leader in a small rural Ethiopian church, and his wife Shiberi. They have named him Bessufekad (meaning "in the will of God"). They have seen God at work as they raise their family, even though their efforts have not always gone to plan. Their first son, Dagum (meaning "second chance" after they came to faith), was stolen by family members because they were believers. This son eventually was returned, but not for 7 years! This reuniting could only be done because of the constant example of love and grace shown by all of the church members as they prayed for and engaged with the family over time; at the market, farming, in community life, as neighbours and building friendship. The family members are now reconciled and all are actively involved in caring for Dagum, Bessufekad and their sister, Naomi (meaning "compassionate despite the challenges"). Shiberi and Mersha said others have seen God's love, even though the persecution.

Give thanks

- For a restful holiday.
- That we have our identity as God's children and he has shown us the way to live and to love the people around us, whatever the circumstances.

Pray

- That we can faithfully live for God, whatever the circumstances.
- For continued development of resources for visiting churches.
- As we present at the Anglican Aid staff retreat on 20th February.

Prayer for Ethiopian partners

- Due to ongoing conflict please pray for peace
- Bible College
 - That through leadership development, believers who face hardship for the sake of the gospel can develop a deeper understanding of God and

how to engage in a way that glorifies Him, even when things don't go to plan.

Partner churches

- St James Turramurra; Soul Revival Anglican, Sutherland Shire; Christ Church, St Ives; Lower Mountains Anglican.
- We are praying for 2-3 more partner churches.
- Visiting our partner church St James Turramurra from 10th to 17th March.
- Anthony is preparing to preach from John 2 at Soul Revival Anglican, Sutherland Shire on the 2nd and 3rd March.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

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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