



Elyard February 2026 Update



Anthony and Trudi Elyard

Serving the Lord in Ethiopia



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough worry about itself.

Matthew 6:33-34

Dear Friends,

The year is in full swing and time has flown by. We appreciate all of your prayers, encouragement and the continued confidence of our partnership for a world that knows Jesus.



Sorting coffee while visiting the family of a friend in a place called Tinchicha

After a quiet Christmas and a month visit from our youngest daughter Anna, we are halfway through the second trimester. Anthony is teaching Old Testament and Mission History. Meanwhile Trudi has been teaching English and managing the house along with all of the extra chores that brings: sorting lentils, boiling milk, making sauces from scratch, etc. Our twin tub washing machine has been hard at work after a couple of weekends with the house full of visitors from Addis Ababa.

Thank you for your prayers. We praise God! The visas and all of our documents are in our hands.



A January update was written, but not sent. Apologies. The main reason it was not sent is that it felt ingenuine. Much was written about what was going on. However, the real story was not as cheerful or optimistic. We continue to struggle with making local friends. Our efforts are thwarted by being asked for money, and when we refer them to the Bible College director, they distance themselves from us. It's hard when our efforts for friendship are not met with the same motives as ours. Church continues to be a trial. Shouting prayers and preaching means it is distorted and unintelligible. Even with earplugs, Trudi often comes home with a headache.

As we spent time praying with the CMS East Africa group, another missionary shared this quote from Willard's book called Spiritual Disciplines...

"I read of a missionary in Africa who was asked if he really liked what he was doing. His response was shocking. "Do I like this work?" he said. "No. My wife and I do not like dirt. We have reasonably refined sensibilities. We do not like crawling into vile huts through goat refuse...But is a man to do nothing for Christ he does not like? God pity him, if not. Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. We have orders to 'Go,' and we go. Love constrains us."

Cross culture stress hit Trudi hard during January. The shouting prayers - think angry tone - coming from the multiple churches each evening was wearying. One Sunday morning, shaking and full of tears, Trudi had had enough. Low levels of continued stress build up, especially when nothing can be done to stop the stressor. Managing stress was one aspect of our training during our time at St Andrew's Hall. We are so grateful for the preparation we had. And, as such, we praise God that we could

organise an opportunity for Trudi to sit beside the stillness of a lake a couple of hours away to recuperate and rest, ready for the commitment to live in Ethiopia long term.



At the start of the trimester, we suddenly realised the College was going through an accreditation process with the Association of Colleges for Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA) to endure an ongoing high standard. The draft report was due. There was a misunderstanding about what was expected, and for one reason or another, others could not pull it together. Anthony very kindly, although reluctantly, volunteered to coordinate and edit the main report. What a scramble. But it has now been submitted and we await the feedback.

Despite these few hits, we have had answers to prayers. The shouting from the nearby churches seems to have all but stopped recently. Trudi is much happier. Anthony has been asked to preach at our local church and through that interaction he was told that people haven't talked to us because they have no English. Maybe this is the opportunity to break the ice. Also, as we were walking along the road, we discovered another church. As we passed the pastor came out and greeted us. Maybe this is another opportunity to engage. We pray that God will lead us through the ambiguity of being the outsiders.



Staff at Saron lodge

In saying this, the staff at Dilla Bible College have sought out ideas (leadership, management, planning) and been happy as changes have been implemented. Alongside this we have been encouraging contextual use of the Bible in our teaching and can see that God is giving us many opportunities to do this.

Give thanks

- For opportunities to preach, teach and give ideas
- That we have opportunities to demonstrate how to use the Bible in its context
- For the rest and recuperation that Trudi had sitting by the lake
- For the St Andrew's Hall training that has prepared us to identify and act on cross-culture stress
- For encouragement from other CMS missionaries through the CMS East Africa missionary group

Please pray

- As Dilla Bible College seeks accreditation
- That cross-culture stress can be minimised and we can care for each other as we live with the ambiguity of being outsiders
- That we will humbly live for God's kingdom in faithfulness and obedience

From Anthony and Trudi

PROJECT GALLOWAY

Caring for missionaries during home assignment

Give today >



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](#).



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](#)