



Elyard July 2025 Update



Anthony and Trudi Elyard

Serving the Lord in Northern Ethiopia



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and support through emails, calls and prayer. Once again we want to thank God for the partnership we have for his glory and purposes.

It is only a few weeks until we head to our new home at the Dila Bible College. Just one of many transitions we have experienced, as this will be our 9th move in four years. In the meantime, we have an Australian visitor and a one week EKHC Bible College teachers conference to attend, alongside farewells and the logistics of relocation.

Regarding logistics, think along the lines of getting permission and letters to have a truck take our belongings, and for checkpoints along the way not to assume the truck contents have been stolen. But first one of us needs a Nation ID, which has already

taken two days for the application process. And to get the ID I had to pay through an app rather than cash, but to get the app I needed the Ethiopian ID...and so it goes.

Our prayers were answered. Praise God! Our low time morphed into a time of wins.



These women work as daily labourers carrying cement from shops to vehicles. They work in all weather conditions and only receive an income when work is available. However, through it all, they always have a smile and cheery hello for us as we go on our daily walk. This week we gave them a homemade cake to have with their daily coffee break. We wanted to thank them for their kindness towards two people from a foreign land and their patience with our language attempts. Their children come willing to play and tell us news of the day. It has given us pleasure to get to know them.

Anthony was encouraged through teaching

Anthony has just finished teaching at the Ethiopian Theological College here in Addis Ababa. This has been a time of learning and trying to understand Ethiopian teaching processes. Many of you will be familiar with the content of a biblical overview and the concepts of God's people, in God's place, under God's rule, for God's kingdom's glory. Our teaching has been influenced by the likes of Graham Goldsworthy's Gospel and Kingdom, Vaughan Roberts' God's Big Picture, the Moore College PTC course Introduction to the Bible/Creation to New Creation and, of course the excellent teaching at CMS Summer School.

Sermons and teaching from our local churches are profuse with this teaching. So much so, that we see it as normal. In Ethiopia we find that many people know the Bible's stories and content far better than we do and by heart. However, the connection to one big story about God's desire to have relationship with people and the lengths he goes to in order to provide a way of salvation for them, is a brand new concept. The course was received with joyful witness to what students have learnt.

Pastor Asrat leads a church with 3000 people and is excited to teach others under his leadership, so they too can teach with this connected and relational lens. He was also telling us of his plans for relational evangelism.

Temesgen is a Bible College principal and wrote in reflection:

"...growing up in a culture where leadership was often viewed through the lens of power struggles, corruption, or distant authority figures, I subconsciously projected those ideas onto my understanding of God's kingship. Socially, I saw rulers as disconnected from the people, and spiritually I imagined God's power as something reserved for dramatic interventions or judgment...we weren't just designed to connect out of necessity, but because we're fashioned in the likeness of divine love that never began and will never end. It's no longer just theology—it's a radical, personal invitation to mirror that eternal fellowship."

Temesgen wrote to tell that he has changed the subject schedule at his Bible College and he will teach the course next semester. We are so grateful for such amazing understanding of God, through Scripture, and the privilege to pass it on.



Trudi's win

Last month we asked for prayer that we would build confidence as formal language learning draws to an end. As Trudi has become more technical with language, topics such as children and women's health have been covered. And as such, problems have been raised and in turn people's lives impacted: A diagnosed broken arm; food intolerances identified; healthy eating for weight loss; identifying dangerous practices (for example chewing lentils or coffee grounds to put on infections or applying oil to burns); two women have escaped from violent relationships; an 8 month old baby with Down Syndrome was being treated like a newborn, but after two months of

friendship and guidance, has put on weight, is now rolling around the floor, nearly sitting and developing new skills each day. Doubly blessed!

Trudi was invited to have a coffee ceremony (a bit like a Japanese tea ceremony) with women she has connected with through these encounters. These women, all from Frey's (our Amharic teacher) unit block, only speak Amharic and are from the Ethiopian Orthodox church. They don't normally spend time with 'Pentay' (protestant/Bible believers). However, they have accepted Trudi, and for the three hour ceremony she was able to not only understand what was going on, but also join the small talk, including answering questions about why we are in Ethiopia. The women reported back to Frey that it was the first time they had met a "habisher ferenge", meaning a foreigner who acts like an Ethiopian. And asked her to return regularly. What an encouragement and answer to prayer!

Let's spend time praising God for his love and devotion to us all and his desire for many to come into relationship with him.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13

Give thanks

- For God's great plan of love and salvation for his people, no matter where they are.
- For the excellent teaching about God's plan and salvation for his people that we receive in Sydney/Australia.
- For the teaching Anthony has been able to give and for the students to take it to their own churches.
- For Asrat and Temesgen's reflection and their ministries to their own churches and Bible College.
- For Frey who has nurtured us in our language learning.
- For Trudi's growing confidence in language learning and the connections that she has made through this.

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.
- For 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.

- For 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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