

Fifth Avenue Christian Church



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E News Mission Moments

September 21, 2009

Team Cox September 2009 update

Melkum Addis Amet! Happy New Year from Ethiopia! It has ushered in more sunshine and decreasing rains. Ethiopian New Year begins on September 1st by Ethiopian calendar, which is actually September 11th by Gregorian calendar. Ethiopian calendar has thirteen months, the last of which is called Paugmay and is only five days long. New Year is a big holiday in Ethiopia with thousands of goats, sheep, and chickens slaughtered for celebration feasts. Even though most Ethiopians cannot afford to celebrate in this fashion, they still make every effort to do so. The beautiful thing we've witnessed is the close family ties which exist here and are even more closely bound during holidays and celebrations. Family and close friends travel great distance to be with their loved ones during celebrations and during "lekso", the period of time surrounding a death. Mourning time is also taken very seriously in Ethiopian culture. Since there is so much death and dying, lekso is a major component of Ethiopian lifestyle.

I believe I previously mentioned our young friend Dawit (David, in English), who has really become like a son to us. Dawit has been an orphan for many years and spends his days shining shoes down on the corner. His life has been far from easy. We have been blessed to recognize the hand of God in Dawit's life; he has a tremendous desire to "make something worthwhile" of his life and has persevered in learning as much English

as he can from any source he can find. Dawit has learned more English from spending time with our family over the past several months and has also been a great Amharic tutor and translator for us. The really exciting thing to witness is how much God is opening his heart and mind to the Truth of His Word. Dawit never read a Bible until we gave him an Amharic Bible of his own. Now he and Sean spend time getting into the Word and exploring Truth. We are thrilled by all the deep questions this draws out of him and pray he will see more and more that he has vital a role in God's amazing story. One way we believe God is working upstream in Dawit's life is through his recent acceptance into a local nursing college. We had prayed about this together during the month prior to his acceptance and Dawit is truly in awe of how God answered this prayer. Dawit and I spent some time at this school, interviewing the director and investigating the program. Sean and I feel confident this is a wide open doorway for Dawit's future and have committed to walk through this process with him. It will be a big challenge for him to study and apply himself this hard for three years while balancing school with basic survival. We believe he has what it takes and eagerly watch as God continues to transform his life.



Sean, Becky and Dawit

Sean has been back to teaching now for one month. He is very popular with his students, including his eldest daughter, who is in his 7th grade math class. The diversity of students in Bingham Academy is amazing and truly orchestrated by God. Students are from dozens of different countries around the world, including a Muslim youth from Pakistan. There was a student who recently graduated from Bingham whose father is now president of another country in Africa. Talk about serious influence by these teachers and fellow classmates! Madison and Hannah have classmates from Korea, Switzerland, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, Australia...as well as many other European, African, and Middle Eastern nations. It's so exciting to think of the many tribes, tongues, and nations gathered together in one place...one school. We're thrilled by the ministry Sean and the girls have every day because of this.

Sean has also been very popular for his mechanic skills. Not only has he spent quite a lot of time working on our vehicle, but also on other missionaries' vehicles, motorcycles, and generators. His skill is so very hard to come by here and greatly appreciated...I'm sure he will be in very high demand the more people find out about his talent!

I (Becky) have less than four months remaining in Amharic language school. I pray that by that time I will be able to effectively communicate on a deep level with the people I work among in the HIV/AIDS/leprosy community. Very shortly I will be co-leading a group of 13 teenage girls from this community; I will do this with an Ethiopian woman who also has a passion for these orphans, street children, and kids who are the caretakers for their sick and dying parents. I continue to visit homes in this community as well, with a vision to expand this ministry to a wider circle women, children, and families who have no one reaching out to them in love, no one offering them the only HOPE they will ever have in Jesus Christ, no one helping to ease their

physical suffering. Only God is all-sufficient for this overwhelming task...we praise him that he alone is the great I AM in all situations.

We're grateful beyond words for those of you who have surrounded us with your prayers. We believe more strongly in this than ever; we know that any opportunities we have are the result of so many prayers lifted up, filling up to overflowing and raining down from above. THANK YOU so much! We ask you to please continue to pray about all these things we've shared in this newsletter. We are confident that the Kingdom of God will advance through prayer and by God's grace poured out upon his church. We pray that you may be encouraged as well by this truth,

"God is still on his throne, we are still on his footstool, and there's only a knee's distance between them...My Father knows best, and I'm confident that he has placed us here; our task is to labor until the pillar-cloud removes and leads further, working out God's purposes in God's time". Jim Elliot

By His grace,

Sean and Becky
Madison and Hannah Cox

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