

May 2018



*Working in Missions:
Gail GORFE
At Bingham Academy
in
ETHIOPIA*

Greetings from Ethiopia!

I write this between unpacking, as we moved to a new house this past weekend. It was our fourth move in 2 years, and hopefully the last one for a while!

Gail Gorfe

Life in Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa is the capital city of Ethiopia and home to nearly 6 million people! In the past year, at our old house, it sometimes felt like all of those people were on the road to that house!

It was only 4km between Bingham Academy, where I work and the kids go to school, and our old house, yet on the average day it would take us 30 minutes to make that short drive, but at times it also took over an hour. Yonas, who worked about 20 km away, in town, was often stuck in traffic for an average of 2 hours, and so he sometimes did not start the journey home until 7pm, when things were calming down.

We moved to that house not long after I started working at Bingham Academy. We decided that being close to the school, where three of us go 5 days a week, and often for a while on the weekend (for sports) as well, it would make life much simpler. That was however not the case, specifically in the last 6 months or so as traffic got steadily worse.



In 1946 when Bingham was opened, the school was considered far on the outskirts of town. There was little in the way of houses or traffic in that area. But that is 70 years ago, and the population of Ethiopia has tripled in that time and huge numbers of people have migrated to the capital in search of work, and so Addis Ababa continues to grow.

Our old house was on a road leading out of town, in an area that hardly existed even five years ago.

There are several new subdivisions there, including the one where we lived, and in a city that has a huge housing shortage, this is very needed. However the infrastructure takes much longer to put into place. The two lane road between the school and our old house leads to many rural villages and thus is a hub of activity as people come into the city for work and to transport goods. Every day the roads are lined with minibuses and buses to transport people one way or the other, with trucks loaded down with building materials, household items, produce and more. Between all the vehicles are endless numbers of people; going to work, children going to school, women selling vegetables along the side of the road, labourers hoping to secure work for the day. With an average daily income of \$5 for the majority of the population, people walk or line up to get seat on a bus. Yet there are lots of cars too, struggling to squeeze between the buses, trucks and people out and about.

There is one more group that shares the road, and that is animals. When you head into Addis Ababa you no longer see as many donkeys, goats and cows on the streets as in the past, but roads like the one we just moved from, that lead out of town, there are always animals to watch out for. Herds of donkeys are still a mayor form of transporting goods on the outskirts of town, and like everyone else, the donkeys head out with their owners, for a day of work. All of this makes for a very stressful commute, one that we thankful to be leaving behind.

And so this past weekend we moved again, to a house that is around 10km away from the school, but a shorter driving distance, with many less people on the road. It will be a much shorter commute for Yonas, so that he will be able to make it home for dinner regularly again. We are nearly settled in.

Praise Points:

- ⇒ For a happy Easter and a long weekend to relax at the lake
- ⇒ Finding a new home, within our budget!
- ⇒ The prayers and support of our friends and family

Bible Translation in Ethiopia (The work of Wycliffe & SIL)

(complements of the SIL April newsletter)

Koorete is an Afro-Asiatic language spoken in Southwestern Ethiopia. There are around 200,000 users of this language. The language is in vigorous use, with standardization and literature being sustained through a widespread system of institutionally supported education. The Ministry of Education runs all mother tongue literacy programs. We provide support and advice on invitation. The Koore people received the New Testament in their language in 2012. Now, in partnership with the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC), the Old Testament is being translated. We provide training and translation support to the project.

Please give **praise** for:

- the mother tongue literacy education amongst this people group.
- faithful work in Bible translation over the years, for the New Testament translation and the lives transformed through it.

Please **pray** for:

- ongoing mother tongue education.
- the ongoing Old Testament translation work: for patience, perseverance, health and strength.
- the ongoing educational and spiritual transformation of the Koore community.



Joy in receiving the Koorete New Testament translation

Support Raising for Gail

Raising sufficient support for me to commit well in my work at Bingham Academy through Wycliffe Canada, continues to be a challenge. We are extremely thankful for the individuals and churches who have felt called to support my mission work, but I still have need of additional contributions in order to reach the Ministry Budget amount required by Wycliffe (and Bingham) which will allow us to go through our days without undue financial stress.

I am very blessed to be able to travel to Canada for one month this summer to continue to work on Partnership Development, thanks to a generous gift. Pray that this trip will bring interest to the work of Wycliffe Canada and specifically to my role at Bingham Academy and how that supports the work of so many mission organizations in Ethiopia, such as: Society for International Ministries (SIM), Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), , Canada Food Grains Bank, Mennonite Central Committee, Finish Lutheran Mission, Swedish Lutheran Mission, Campus Crusade, Joshua Campaign, Cure Hospital, United Nation and many more.

The work of Wycliffe Canada and Bingham Academy has great impact in Ethiopia, and we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this work. \$50 per month from 25 individuals would cover our needs. Please pray for people to step along side of me in this ministry.

Prayer Points:

- ⇒ For the start of final exams for grade 10-12 students at Bingham!
 - ⇒ For our older daughters in their daily lives.
 - ⇒ For financial support to see us through the next school year
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Will you invest in the work of Wycliffe and other Missions by supporting me in my work? If you are already a supporter, thank you for investing in the work of Wycliffe in Ethiopia.

To Donate to Wycliffe Bible Translators:

- contribute online at Wycliffe.ca, DONATE: please specify that your gift is **for the support of Project 54001 Gail Gorfe** ... you will also see instructions for monthly giving on that site

OR:

- ⇒ mail a cheque, payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, to: 4316-10th Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6K3, and enclose a note indicating your gift is **for Project 54001 Gail Gorfe**
- ⇒ **If you are outside of Canada, you can still donate via your local Wycliffe. Contact Gail for more details.**

We appreciate your prayers for the students and staff at Bingham, for continual progress in Bible translation, and for God to bless Ethiopia with rain and good harvest.



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to see community transformation through Bible translation, use of translated Scriptures,
mother-tongue literacy and education