



September 2018

Gail GORFE At Bingham Academy in ETHIOPIA

As a parent, when the school year starts, life goes back to regular routines. I look forward to sharing about this school year with you.

Gail Gorfe

The Impact of Missions in Ethiopia

There are many different organizations in Ethiopia that work to make an impact on the lives of people in this country, by using the skills they have to make a difference in someone's life. Sometimes that means doing something that no one else wants to do, or providing something that not available. What do these Christian organizations do to make an impact and to show Christ's love to others? What does this have to do with me?

I work in the office of Bingham Academy. The vision of BA is teaching truth, equipping generations, changing the world for God's glory. All of the staff (foreign and local, teachers and office staff) are part of that process. Part of teaching the next generation is to set an example, and many of the parents of our students do that every day. When the parents can focus on their mission because their kids are receiving a good Christian education at BA, we are part of their mission, just as they part of ours. Every Friday morning during our staff devotions, we have the opportunity to hear from parents who ministries are impacted by the work we do.

This month we heard from Trent and Carmen, who run a non-profit organization called "Make your Mark", which works with street children in Ethiopia. Trent and Carmen are Americans and their three children attend BA. Their organization is supported by churches in the US and works in partnership with several mission organizations locally. Addis Ababa has over 100,000 street children, They come from rural areas hoping to earn money to send to their parents and siblings; they are orphans with no one to take them in, or kids kicked out of their homes because the parents are too poor to feed them. The boys get drawn into violence and the girls often become prostitutes. Once in this cycle it is nearly impossible for them to escape and leads to hopelessness and in recent years, to glue sniffing. "Make your Mark" has a centre where these children can come to eat and learn, but more importantly, to feel loved and appreciated. There are opportunities to be a kid, counseling, medical care and education, all with the message of Christ. So far this year they



have rehabilitated over 20 boys, such as the two boys in the picture. While this number may seem small, every life saved and turned to Christ brings great joy to the 25 staff, many of whom are former street children themselves.

Trent and Carmen send their thanks not only to their donors, but to all those who support their work, including indirectly through the work done at BA. Visit their website at <http://myminternational.org/who-we-are/>



Praise for:

- ⇒ for the great work experiences that Zack had over the summer months in Thunder Bay, working two part time jobs, and for a safe trip here on his own.
- ⇒ Current peace following the end of the demonstrations and riots of the past few weeks.

Welcome Sunday at the International Lutheran Church

Our family have been members of the International Lutheran Church in Ethiopia for about 18 years. This is the church where Zayma and Zack were baptized, where our kids were active in Sunday school and got to participate in Christmas plays and be part of a youth group. Zack is currently a Sunday School helper and both kids helped out two weeks ago when we had a day of painting and cleaning. Zoya is hoping to play piano as her skills improve, and both Yonas and I have been on the church council (I am currently council president).



Many of our congregation members come from different parts of the world, making this their church during the years they are living in Ethiopia. Our congregation has had a majority of Norwegians, Sweds, Tanzanian's, Americans and Fins in the 50 years since it was established. Currently we have 4 families who have been in our congregation for more than 15 years, and many who have been with us for less then 5, as members move to other countries for work or return home. Because of this we have almost no elderly members and very few young adults .



Our Welcome service a few weeks ago, was an opportunity to invite and welcome new people to church and to a lunch afterwards. Ethiopia has the third largest number of Embassies in the world, and our outreach is focused on foreigners, as our services are in English and Ethiopian Christians prefer to attend a local church.

We are thankful for the great turnout on Sunday and that we can minister to individuals and families from so many different countries.

Pray for:

- ⇒ Pray for funding so that we can do another printing of Yonas' book, as it has been receiving a lot of new attention these past months. Yonas' book was released in 2015 and is about music in the Ethiopian church. It has been sold out for nearly two years but continues to be in demand. The printing of 4000 books in 2015 cost us much more then we made, and we cannot afford to pay for another printing, so please pray for donor support.
- ⇒ Pray for good health. Colds and coughs and a mild flu season has been going around here and both Zoya and I have been down with it so far.

Will you invest in the work of Wycliffe and other Missions by supporting me in my work? Is God calling you to partner with me in this ministry? **I still need \$500** to cover our financial requirements. If you are already a supporter, thank you for investing in the work of Wycliffe in Ethiopia.

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OR:

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We appreciate your prayers for the students and staff at Bingham and for continual progress in Bible translation.



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