



Chris and Suzy Wilson

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Location: Ethiopia



What we do: Working in reconciliation and peacebuilding with local Christian leaders.



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear friends,

Thanks for your ongoing support and prayers as we serve in Ethiopia. It's been a while since we last wrote and so there's lots to update you on.

Chris has been involved in several different ministries, including a trip to the Gofa region in August. There, he saw the heartbreaking aftermath of a landslide that claimed over 250 lives in a single village. It was a privilege to be able to visit this community and meet with brothers and sisters there. As a result of this trip, SIM Ethiopia were able to support several local churches to host a large communal funeral service for those who perished in the mudslide.

Work in the refugee camps has continued. It's been a real joy to be able to provide training for church leaders who can't access our English language course. Simon, a former student from Gambella, has been helping to deliver some training sessions and is running a new discipleship group for leaders from several very marginalised communities, which we're excited about.

One unexpected consequence of our work in the camps is that a group of women from a very small ethnic community have asked for help to learn to read in their mother tongue, a language that has only recently been translated into written form. Thanks to the generosity of one of our supporting churches in the UK, we've been able to fund a small literacy project for women. A local teacher is now helping a small group of women learn to read and write. This initiative is a brand new adventure for the women, the teacher, the local churches and for us, as we step back from direct delivery and enable local churches to manage the project. Please pray for God's blessing as we navigate this new venture together.

Chris is now in the final stages of his PhD. He is hoping to submit his thesis within the next couple of months in time to get the whole thing completed before the end of the academic year. This is ahead of schedule, owing to an urgent need for qualified teachers in Ethiopia, especially in the area of systematic theology. Please pray for wisdom and strength and fruitful conversations with his supervisors and examiners.

Suzy continues to teach English to teenagers at Korah. This year she has a smaller but more consistent group of students and it's been great to be able to better build on their knowledge and enjoy engaging with some simple Bible stories together. It's been encouraging to see growth both in language and understanding over these couple of years. (In the first few lessons Suzy's British English accent was a total mystery to them,



SIM Ethiopia director, Cherry, meeting the women in Gofa after the landslide

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



as they had become accustomed to hearing only American English – overcoming this is a success in itself!) Suzy has also been involved with the SIM East Africa office, which has sent out dozens of Ethiopians and their families to serve in other nations. Among other things, she has helped run some TCK training for 18 Ethiopian church workers preparing to leave in the next 6–12 months. Within the team, she is also helping to oversee education for those kids when they are on home leave in Ethiopia and consider educational options for those in their host countries.

In Addis Ababa, one pressing issue is the increasing number of severely malnourished babies arriving at government hospitals and orphanages. Recently, we learned that foreigners can now foster these babies for up to six months, helping them gain the

necessary weight before they are adopted by Ethiopian families. We've recently started fostering a gorgeous small boy with a cleft lip who needs to gain weight before his surgery. It's been a joy to welcome him into our family and we've already seen significant progress in just the couple of weeks he's been with us. Praise God for his growth and please pray for the upcoming surgery and for an Ethiopian family to adopt him (it is not possible for foreigners to adopt in this country).

The kids are thriving and enjoying their studies and sports. We continue to be incredibly thankful for the community of young people they share life with here on the compound with whom they enjoy, among other things, playing football, impromptu film nights and pop-up shops/cafes.

Just last month we were able to take a much-needed break, travelling with friends to Tigray in northern Ethiopia. It was a wonderful opportunity to trek through stunning landscapes, visit the famous rock-hewn churches and explore the rich history of the Aksumite Empire. We all had such a wonderful time, and when so much of Ethiopia is closed off, we were really grateful for the chance to get away and enjoy this beautiful country.

Thank you once again for your support and prayers; your partnership is a tremendous blessing, enabling us to serve here.

With love and gratitude,
Suzy, Chris and the kids



Photos from top to bottom: Chris and Bishop Martin after he was elected; Timkat celebration when the Orthodox church celebrates Jesus' baptism with huge parades around Addis, one happens just outside our compound; outside a cave church in the beautiful Gheralta Mountains of Tigray; the impressive stelae in Aksum town



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

We've been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around our wider area of work. In Ukraine, families are being assured they are not alone amid the hardship of war, and our colleagues in Paraguay have seen a young man overcome challenges to learn academically and spiritually. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower