



Chris and Suzy Wilson

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Contact details:

suzyandchris1@gmail.com

Blog: <https://suzyandchris.wordpress.com>



Location: Ethiopia



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



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

Dear friends,

Greetings from Addis, where rainy season is finally ending in its usual dramatic fashion with a few big storms.

We're delighted to share that since our last link letter, Chris has successfully completed his PhD. Although it has been a demanding journey, it's also been deeply encouraging. In May, he shared his research on the church and ethnic conflict with leaders of NGOs, local churches and theological colleges in Addis. Many of them identified parallels between the challenges here in Ethiopia and those Chris explored in the Northern Irish context. Several groups have since invited him to provide further input on these issues. In June, he returned to the UK for his viva.

This went as well as could have been hoped: he passed without corrections and has been encouraged to pursue publication. While the positive response both in Ethiopia and the UK has been exciting, it also means plenty of extra work including reworking the thesis for publication and preparing new teaching seminars. At times, there seem to be more opportunities than hours in the week, so please pray for wisdom in discerning where to focus.

Having completed these studies, Chris now has the time and training to be able to help to address the shortage of systematic theology teaching here in Ethiopia. As we write this, he is about to start teaching part-time at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST), working with MA students in Biblical & Theological Studies. He is excited for this new opportunity and hopes to invest meaningfully in the next generation of leaders and theologians for the church in Ethiopia. Please pray that this venture would be a blessing to both students and the church here.

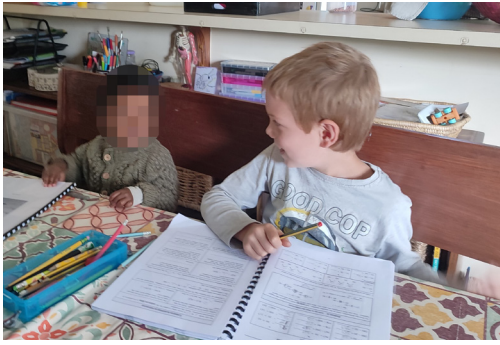
Alongside teaching at EGST, we remain committed to providing training for churches in the refugee camps. In July, Chris attended the Synod of the Anglican Church in Assosa, where he spent time with church leaders from the refugee community and led a teaching session. In August, he was granted permission to travel to one of the camps to complete training with about 25 church leaders. It was encouraging to see so many finish the programme and demonstrate real growth in their responses and conversations. With this first



Chris with church leaders in a refugee camp (dressed as an honoured guest, we think!)

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churchmissionsociety.org/chrisandsuzywilson

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



cohort's training completed, attention will now shift to several other camps in the region that have had less input. Because of language barriers, this training requires a lot of translation. Please pray for continued access, and for Chris's colleague Simon, who assists with both teaching and translation but has been facing ongoing health struggles.

Suzy has recently begun doing some writing for SIM Ethiopia as part of the comms team, helping to tell the stories of different ministries across the country. This has been a

wonderful way to hear first-hand about the amazing work happening here. In addition, she continues to be involved in the training to help prepare Ethiopian mission partners for service overseas. She and Abigail were also delighted to attend a graduation at the Bridge School, a programme for vulnerable children in Korah who have never had the chance to attend school. It helps them catch up so they can join government schools after a year or two. It was inspiring to see the children celebrated alongside their parents and caregivers. If you'd like to learn more or consider sponsoring a child, visit Bridge School (glimmerforstreetkids.com).

Abigail has just started school at Bingham Academy; she is really enjoying it and has fallen in with a sweet group of friends. The boys are doing well with homeschool and appreciate the little extra attention. The little boy we're taking care of is thriving – he's now walking (and running!), beginning to talk and have strong opinions! Please continue to pray that God would provide a permanent family for him.

Although we are now back into the full swing of things, rainy season did allow for a change of pace as things in the city tend to slow down. During July/August we enjoyed hosting a family from the UK who were involved in some ministry opportunities, and showing them a little of what life looks like for us in Addis. We also managed to get a week away at Lake Babogaya, where we always feel well rested, even when rest looks like chasing a toddler away from the water and asking the kids to quickly dive down to retrieve the various things from my bag he decided to throw into the lake.

We're deeply grateful for your support and prayers.

With love,

Suzy and Chris



Photos from top to bottom: Our little toddler taking school very seriously (for approximately 30 seconds); the kids performing a song at Bridge School graduation; Chris at University of Aberdeen after his successful viva; it was a joy to see Abigail baptised a few months ago at our church here



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

It builds our faith when we hear stories from other CMS partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. We hope that you're inspired as you read about indigenous women training for ministry in Argentina, and about children receiving trauma support in DR Congo. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

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