



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 reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

We're coming to the end of rainy season (known as krempt) in Ethiopia, which means dramatic storms, hail and heavy rain. We have also just celebrated Ethiopian New Year – I wonder what 2019 has in store for us?

Chris and I ended up spending much of krempt on separate continents. It wasn't plan A, but we didn't want to leave our little toddler without one of us around and we both felt like it was the right decision to split up for home leave. We are so grateful everything went as well as we could have hoped. Home leave is always a mixture of exhausting and encouraging, and although even busier than usual, we all appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with family, friends and supporting churches. A few highlights for the kids and me included a little holiday with cousins in Sherwood Forest, go karting and mountain climbing in Northern Ireland, and seeing War Horse in the theatre in London.

We've now been back and all together in Ethiopia for a month, and feeling settled.

Chris recently celebrated the first graduation at EGST (Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology) of some of the students he has taught, which was a special moment after investing in them over the last year. Chris is also part of the editorial team for the Ethiopian Journal of Theology, which was launched recently. His work at EGST in helping equip the church in Ethiopia to teach theology well is something that continues to bring him enormous joy and satisfaction.

In early September, Chris travelled to Assosa. He represented St Matthew's (our church in Addis) at the diocesan synod and was invited to lead a teaching session looking at the implications of his PhD research for how the church strives for unity in the midst of conflict. The teaching session was well received and it was a joy to gather together with brothers and sisters there. Following the synod, Chris and the team ran training for preachers in one of the refugee camps in the region. While it is always a very frustrating process of getting to the camp and getting permission, it is always worth it when we meet together with the leaders there, who are incredibly humble and hungry for teaching.



Chris attending EGST graduation

Support Chris and Suzy:
churchmissionsociety.org/chrisandsuzywilson

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



Some of the camps are near enough to the border that at times, people in the camp can hear the fighting, making the war in Sudan feel very close. This is obviously a stressful and unsettling situation for people who have already fled from war. Please pray for the refugees and for those leading churches there. Pray too for Simon – Chris's former student. After many years, first as Chris's student in Gambella, then translator and co-teacher, we are now planning on Simon returning to the camp to complete the next block of training without us. We're excited about this step – please pray that he'd remain healthy, and that this next round of training would be a success.

It always feels good to settle back into routines, and Suzy is enjoying homeschooling the boys while also doing a few other things on the side – right now that looks like helping with some SIM Ethiopia comms and preparing for some training for Ethiopian missionaries next month. She has also been enjoying opportunities to lead worship in some different contexts, the most unique being a wedding last week for a couple who are new believers from a place where there are very few Christians. Due to their unique situation, they had no family present – and so it felt like the church was coming together to honour our brother and sister on this special day.

The kids have readjusted as we settle back into school and homeschool routines. The boys are enjoying some sports, including karate and football, and Abigail is feeling happy to be back at Bingham. There are still some big questions as to what Bingham Academy will look like in the next academic years, so we'd appreciate ongoing prayers for wisdom as SIM leadership have some significant decisions to make.

We also continue to work through the adoption process with Ermi. Do join us in continuing to pray that things would progress smoothly and that we would have wisdom and patience as we wait.

Thanks so much for all your support and encouragement.

Love, Chris and Suzy



Photos from top to bottom: Chris and Simon walking into the refugee camp for teaching; group work in one of the camps; a wonderful day in the Mourne Mountains; Suzy leading worship at the wedding of some new believers



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

We hope that you're inspired as you read about Alison in Kyiv, Ukraine, who is seeing many answers to prayer as she faithfully serves God. And that you get a moment to read about the displaced disciples in Ethiopia – church leaders taking part in bespoke training designed for people living in refugee camps. Read more stories about empowering people pushed to the edges at churchmissionsociety.org/empower