



# Chris and Suzy Wilson

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**Location:** Ethiopia



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

Greetings!

We hope this letter finds you well. We have recently returned to Addis Ababa after spending a few months in the UK where we were able to reconnect with family, friends and supporting churches. We had a lovely time – but after lots of moving around, we're also glad to be back in our own home again.

We spent much of May in Northern Ireland where the kids enjoyed being treated to the cinema, a sleepover and an overnight stay in their grandparents' campervan. As a family we had a great time exploring the beautiful outdoors: hiking in the Mourne Mountains, swimming in the Irish Sea and racing down sand dunes were all highlights of our trip. At the end of our time there we were able to squeeze in a lovely weekend with Chris's family on the north coast and it was a joy to be present for the dedication of the youngest member of the family.



*Enjoying Northern Ireland*

We spent most of June in York, which always feels a little like a home away from home. We really appreciated being able to stay there with some good friends and had a wonderful time with them. Abigail learned how to use a sewing machine and spent many hours in our friend's studio engaging in various sewing projects. We all enjoyed trips into York, meals with friends and water fights during the UK mini heatwave. We did our best to pass on our football allegiances to our children, who enjoyed both a tour of Old Trafford and also their first ever live game, watching Oxford United winning 2-1 against Carlisle.

After being in York for a few weeks, we travelled down to be closer to Suzy's mum in Abingdon and were very blessed again by being able to stay in the home of a supporter that was available while he was away. Our time down south provided some opportunity to rest up a little after a busy couple of months. The kids loved their trips to the library and swimming pool, and we were able to spend a week with Suzy's family in the Peak District, where the kids had a wonderful time playing with all their cousins, some of whom they hadn't seen for five years as they live in China. Unfortunately, Chris was forced to spend the week with his leg up after fracturing it hours after arriving at the CMS people in mission conference a few days earlier. Thankfully it seems to be healing well, and he will be able to take the boot off in a few days.

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



During our time in the UK we were able to visit almost all of our link churches. It was wonderful to reconnect with everyone and we were encouraged by so many of the conversations we had. We deeply appreciated ideas and wisdom shared by some with more experience than us, and this too has helped to spur us on. Thank you for your hospitality, generosity and making us feel so at home in your different churches. Chris also had the opportunity to present his work at a few different theology conferences and to attend some other conferences. He really appreciated the chance to engage with others who

are thinking about how the church responds to ethnic conflict. One positive to come out of his fractured ankle is that it provided an opportunity to do lots of work on the latest chapter of his PhD, which focuses on the challenge of preaching in the midst of nationalism and conflict.

Now we're back in Addis, we have quickly settled into our rhythm here. The kids' homeschooling has started and is going well, and Suzy is beginning to teach English again to high school kids who live in and around the city dump fairly close to our home. This is part of a great project run by a wonderful man, Abera, who grew up on the dump, and despite being in a position to get a very good job, continues to live nearby with his family and tirelessly serve the community around him. It's a privilege to work with him.

Over the next month, Chris is hoping to get permission and make his next trip to run more training with the churches in the refugee camp. Please pray that his ankle would recover in time, that getting permission would be straightforward, and that he'd be able to recruit others to join him in this work. Please pray for the refugees and church communities there who have been struggling as a result of lots of food aid being suspended in recent months. And finally please pray for Ethiopia – in recent months there has been much conflict in the Amhara region of the country, huge numbers of people are impacted by the ongoing volatile situation there and in other parts of the country. Please also continue to pray for Gambella, where there have been repeated episodes of inter-communal violence that have resulted in many deaths over the last few months. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement,

Suzy and Chris



**Photos from top to bottom:** Climbing up Slieve Binnian; making use of a wheelchair in Heathrow Airport; visiting Old Trafford in Manchester; enjoying being tourists in York



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Jesus never gives up. Neither should we.** We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at [churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup](https://churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup)

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