



August 26, 2003

<http://missionary.sim.org/ford/>

"... that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." Colossians 1:28b-29

These words have been a focus in my prayers over the past two months. They struck me first because the supply of *my* energy was depleted. The Lord encouraged me to keep on with *His* energy, which is unlimited. We need also to keep the end (aim) in mind - that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. Yes, that must be the aim of our translation work, our literacy efforts, all that we do for God's kingdom.

Toward the end of July I sent the CARLA draft of Matthew's Gospel in Banna to Donna Clawson for David, Getu and Ayke to revise. Pray that they will be led by the Holy Spirit in all of the translation work. Thank you so much for praying for me to complete this draft of Matthew.

Please continue to pray for the Banna primer construction workshop, scheduled for September 15-30, in Alduba, which is in southwest Ethiopia (see map). James Kigamwa will come from Kenya to lead it, but due to a scheduling conflict he won't arrive until the afternoon of September 17th. Donna Clawson and I will lead the first three days and need your prayers for God's enabling. Eamon Anderson, a missionary to Romania, will also join us. Due to various complications (visa, finances, logistics), Ermias/Jeremiah Mamo (the Aari church leader studying at Fuller) and the other two Kenya men won't be coming, but we count on their help in the future.

The Aari church leaders are ready to work with me October 1-8 on revising the Aari primer. I am still preparing a list of the problems - mainly lessons with too many new words. We'll use a list of words in the primer with frequency counts, hopefully putting some of the needed words in place of those which only occur once and aren't really needed. Please be much in prayer for us that week, that we will make all necessary revisions and get the primer ready to be published. Oct. 8-22 Duba, Fikadu and I plan to work together in Addis Ababa. We may need to work more on the primer, or we may do more Old Testament translation.

Mother's annual eye check-up showed improvement in her vision, something unusual for people with macular degeneration. Praise the Lord! (She says, "But why can't I see better then?") Please do remember to pray for her well-being while I am away Sept. 11 - Oct. 23.

Donna Watson said it well in her devotional for Creekside Christian Fellowship (Irvine, CA): **"The Lord God will court us and pursue us, but he'll never push himself on us. He has already paid the price by dying on the cross to pay our debt and ransom our souls. God is a gentleman just waiting for us to surrender...and to 'open wide our mouths.'"** We live in an age of overwhelming opportunities and accompanying stress. May we draw our strength and direction from Him.

(See next page for photos.)

Gratefully partnering with you,

Carolyn Ford

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David, Getu & Ayke (Banna translators)



Duba, Carolyn & Fikadu (Aari translators)



Mother at her 39th birthday party/picnic



Two of our MKs (missionary kids) with pet turtle.
(photo by Cox)



Family at Mother's birthday picnic. Jonathan sitting on the picnic table with a water melon rind is my nephew David's 5th child. David is in white at top right, and his wife Michelle (expecting their 6th) is standing at top center. Sister Peggy is seated in front of Michelle in red. Sitting next to Jonathan with the pretty long hair is my niece Christina.



David's 5 and niece Linda's son (top left) climbed this tree so I could get their photo.