

Thanksgiving, 2003

God has blessed me immeasurably, especially through His people. Please meet some of the ones I am especially thankful for:

Donna Clawson, heading up the Banna language work. She graciously arranged for all 13 of us on the primer construction team to eat lunch together at her house each day. She worked hard to get the first two (of three) Banna primers ready for printing before leaving for home assignment October 22nd.



James Kigamwa, Director of Literacy Evangelism Fellowship in Kenya. Thank you for praying for Donna and me as we helped the team write the first 12 primer lessons because James couldn't come until the 3rd day of the workshop. He was pleased with what we had done, quickly discerned what the next steps should be, and kept the team on target with efficiency and enthusiasm. With his direction and encouragement we finished the draft of all three Banna primers in the 2 1/2 weeks of the workshop. He was also able to help me understand better how to approach revision of the Aari primers.

Sharon Smith, long-time nurse at Alduba, where the Banna primer construction workshop was held. She has recently given up nursing in order to work with the church in teaching and training its leaders. She generously put aside her own plans to help us for the 2 1/2 weeks of the workshop. Here she is working with Getu on layout of the primer lessons.



David, Getu and Ayke, the Banna translators. I am delighted to see their growth in commitment to the literacy and translation work. They had revised the CARLA draft of Matthew I sent, but there wasn't time to go over it. On the last day of the primer construction workshop, several community leaders came to help celebrate completion of the primers. Here David (left) is helping a Banna community leader through the first primer lesson.

Banna primer construction workshop participants. Toward the end of the celebration, Donna presented a certificate to each workshop participant. Jammo was one of the three participants who have not yet learned to read, but he was able to point out the "picture words" in the first primer lesson as David taught. Here he proudly receives his certificate. Please pray that he and many others will soon be learning to read from the Banna primer.





Fikadu and Duba, the Aari translators. They have faithfully worked with me for 15 years now. During our time together in October, they began translating Joshua and Judges. We went over the first 5 chapters of each book together. Fikadu has been able to obtain the needed medicine for his daughter Bereket, though not without a great deal of time and effort. Praise God that she keeps well and continues with her schooling.

Ed Owen, member of the Seed Company (a branch of Wycliffe Bible Translators). He spent a week developing software to enable me to print text in Ethiopic script more easily and with a much better font. He also appeared at just the right time to help me get the right files copied onto a floppy disk for the producers of the Aari Jesus film, who “just happened” to be in Addis Ababa and need these files two days after my arrival there. They hope to have the dedication and first showing of the film within the next year. That’s exciting!



The most challenging, most frustrating, and possibly the most important week of my visit was spent in Jinka, October 1-8, where I had asked the Aari church leaders to work with me on revision of the Aari primers. They were not as available as I’d hoped, but we did meet together and agreed on the need to make Aari literacy a priority. Two of the leaders joined Duba, Fikadu and me part of the time, and I think we have made the needed revisions. Now I need your prayers as I “copy and paste” the text into a program called “Publisher”, from which I hope to print out a camera-ready copy of all 3 primers.



Pastor Matewos (Matthew) and family. I’ve known Matewos and his wife Itaferahu since before they were engaged, and it is always a special joy to visit them. Another special friend, *Ruth Cremer*, invited them for Sunday dinner so that I would not need to make the tiring trip by local taxi to their home on the other side of Addis Ababa. They have three boys, about the same ages as my younger nieces and nephew.

I am also deeply grateful for each of you who pray for me and for the ministry in Ethiopia. You have invested much in God’s kingdom, and I am confident that you will not be disappointed in the returns. As we celebrate again the coming of our Savior, may we be renewed in our commitment to spread the glorious news of great joy which is for *all* people. (Luke 2:10, Phillips)

Wishing you a
BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

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

