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"The king was overcome with emotion. He went up to his room over the gateway and burst into tears. And as he went, he cried, 'O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I could have died instead of you! O Absalom, my son, my son.'" 2 Samuel 18:33 (NLT)

This passage moves me deeply. David couldn't die instead of his rebel son; but God could die instead of His rebel children, and He did, and I am forever grateful.

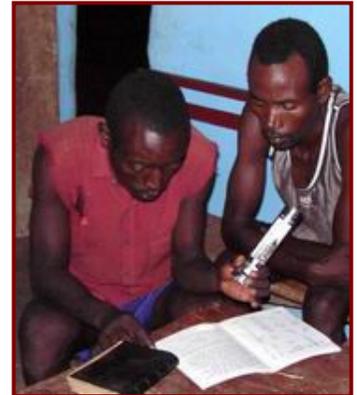
About half of my extended family fit into the photo above. We were celebrating birthdays (Mother's, niece Christina's, nephew David's) with a family picnic.

Praise God that Duba and Fikadu, who worked faithfully with me for 17 years, have been asked to continue as part of the Aari translation team. They will be joined by Degu, who worked with us part-time and has good experience in translation, and Leon, who has completed a degree at the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa. Leon should be able to help the team with exegesis by consulting the various translation helps available in English. **Please pray:**

- 1) for Holy Spirit-inspired unity among the team members;
- 2) for God's anointing and enabling as they translate;
- 3) for an effective literacy effort resulting in 100% literacy among the Aari;
- 4) that the Aari will take God's Word seriously and study it as their daily bread.

One of the men who graduated in April as a qualified teacher of Banna literacy is already into the third (last) primer with his student. Praise God with us for this, and please **pray that the other graduates will follow his example.**

I have sent the Banna Translation team a draft of the first 30 chapters of Genesis. Colleague Donna Clawson sent me revised drafts of 1-2 Corinthians, Matthew and Luke in July, so I have been working on those. We hope to finish going through Luke, 1 Corinthians, and possibly Matthew as a team when I am there in September. **Please pray that the final draft will be clear, accurate and in natural Banna.**



My niece Christina Farnell and I are booked to leave for Ethiopia August 25th, returning to Washington State September 26th. Christina will care for two boys, Josiah and Caleb, so their mother can finish Amharic language school while their dad teaches at our international school. Christina will doubtless find many other ways to minister there as well. **Please ask God to make Christina and me a blessing to those we work with. Pray that we will grow in our relationship with Him during this trip.**

Grateful for your partnership,

Carolyn Ford