



Family Birthday Party

March/April, 2008

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“I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3 (NIV)

G. K. Chesterton in his book *Orthodoxy* reminds us how small children, when delighted by something we do, will keep saying, “Do it again!” for as long as we have the strength to keep doing it. He suggests that God may also have this childlike quality, so that He says to the sun every morning, “Do it again”, and to the moon every evening, “Do it again.” “It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that he has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.”



Sunrise in Alduba (Banna land)  
Courtesy of Craig Campbell

As I pondered this possibility, I came to the realization that I did not expect my Father to keep on “doing it again,” and that perhaps this was the root of my weakness in faith. Take, for example, my struggles with legalities, paper work and financial implications of Mother’s passing. Almost daily I was seeing God work out some detail, often through people whom He brought along to help me, always with the beyond-natural flare that shows His hand in it. But each time a new challenge came, I’d get upset and worried all over again. He had already helped me so much; how could I expect Him to take care of this as well? After thinking about Chesterton’s suggestion, I began praying with each new challenge, “Do it again, Lord. Please show me Your amazing goodness in this challenge also.” I discovered that He delights to “do it again”! Now instead of dreading each new challenge, I look forward with excitement to seeing God’s amazing work. How I praise Him for not getting tired of being asked to “do it again”.



Getu & Ayke

I continue writing introductions in Amharic (the national language) for the New Testament books. Getu and Ayke will translate these introductions into the Banna language. Our newest team member Alemayehu resigned recently. Please ask God to add to the team those of His choosing.

I’ll attend a course in Dallas, Texas, for trainers of mother-tongue translators (that is, people like Getu and Ayke who translate Scripture into their heart language) the last two weeks of April. In May I’ll travel with a good friend to Florida and visit the SIM retirement center. (I hope to work for another ten

years, but I want to prepare for the future, and this may be my best opportunity to see the facility. Besides, I have many good friends to visit there.) From Florida I will go to SIM Headquarters in North Carolina for a “home assignment seminar”. I look forward to the interaction with colleagues.

God is in the process of healing my emotions and helping me grow. I expect that I will be selling Mother’s house and moving back to Ethiopia sometime next year, but I have not made a firm commitment yet as I do not want to run ahead of my Commanding Officer.

Grateful for your partnership,

Carolyn Ford



Banna Watering Hole  
Courtesy of Trent Cox

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