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*“You are worthy ... for You were slain,
and have redeemed us to God by Your blood
out of every tribe and language and people and nation ...”*
Revelation 5:9

Good friend Ruth Dillon and I were warmly welcomed by the SIM retirees in Sebring, Florida, May 1-3. Fellowship with old and new friends was a blessing. What an honor to meet SIM artist Chuck Guth and see his original painting based on Rev. 5:9. (See photo above.) Showing people from South America, Africa, and Asia, it represents so beautifully the vision God has given me from Rev. 7:9-10 of a multitude from every language group, standing before the throne praising Him for His salvation. I like to picture the Gurage, Aari, and Banna people there, and you and me rejoicing because God gave us the privilege of partnering together with Him to bring them His Word in their heart language.

I had thought that the two-week course in Dallas, Texas, on Relevance Theory was about translation. It is in fact a theory about communication, but it has very important implications for how we translate, and statistical evidence backs up the theory. Please pray that I will be able to communicate to my colleagues in Ethiopia the basic principles I have learned. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct us in applying these principles to Bible translation.



My time at SIM Headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, was also a time of learning and blessing. Several of us spent a few days in a spiritual retreat, drawing near to the Lord, listening to His voice, and sharing with each other. I am reading through the New Living Translation for the first time. When I came to 2 Thessalonians 1:10, I was thrilled to realize that Jesus is going to come with the express purpose of receiving glory and praise from His people. I want to practice for that day by praising Him now at every opportunity.



Colleague Donna Clawson sent me a revised draft of Matthew 1-18 in Banna, and I spent the last two weeks of May going through that. I was pleased that Getu and Ayke had been able to make a good translation of the introduction I'd written for them in Amharic, the national language. On the advice of reviewers (other Banna speakers who read the translation and make suggestions for improvement) they had made some good changes in the translation. Please pray for me as I continue to write introductions for the remaining books of the New Testament.

Yes, God has continued to “do it again”. As soon as Mother’s “stimulus check” from the IRS comes, I will be able to close probate. Meanwhile God brings friends and family along to minister to me in every way. I am truly grateful. One of my major tasks now is to sort through books, papers and household items, keeping only what is necessary. Please pray for wisdom as to how best to dispose of the rest.

Grateful for your partnership,

Carolyn Ford

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