



Ayke and Donna

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In his book *The Prodigal God*, Timothy Keller explains that to be prodigal means to spend until you have nothing left, and he applies the term to God's "reckless grace" toward us, His children. In Jesus' parable, we readily see that the younger son cared more about his inheritance (his father's gifts) than he did about his father. On careful examination, we find the same attitude in the older son, who responds to his father's joy over the return of his younger brother with these words:

*"Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends." Luke 15:29 (NIV)*



Carolyn and Getu

I wonder how many of us think God owes us something. How often do we forget the debt we owed Him because of our sins - our life blood! And who paid that debt? Our Older Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ - with His life blood! I wonder if we see ourselves more as reluctant slaves than as beloved children. What was the father's response to this outburst from his "obedient" son?

*"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'" Luke 15:31 (NIV)*



Feasting on Goat Meat & Corn

I am determined to live on my Father's estate (which is quite large), grateful that all He has is mine (Rom. 8:32), but above all enjoying His presence and the privilege of being His child.

The Alduba young people especially are enthusiastically volunteering to read from the Gospel of Mark in Banna at the beginning of each Sunday worship service. Those who can't read listen and try to answer the questions that are related to what was read. Praise God for this, and please continue to pray for an effective literacy effort.

I am still waiting to receive the translation of Exodus from the Kafa team, but we have completed the consultant check of both Romans and 2 Corinthians in the Banna language. Praise God for this encouraging progress. Please pray for us as we continue to work on reconciling our translation of parallel passages in the Gospels (so that the wording is the same where it was the same in Greek, e.g., in Matthew 11:9 and Luke 7:26).

Thank you for praying for God's solution to my email problems. The past two months have been better. Praise God! It means so much to be able to communicate with family and friends. I look forward to seeing pictures of my nephew Matthew's May wedding when I go to Addis Ababa. My youngest niece Suzanne will be married in September, and niece Christina and husband James (still planning to join Wycliffe Bible Translators) are expecting their second child in February, two days before their daughter Mikayla's first birthday! Praise God for the Internet and that I can access photos when I am in Addis.

Praise God for a good harvest of corn for almost everyone in the Banna area. Now they will be praying for rain again so that they can plant another crop of corn and perhaps some sorghum. Please ask the Holy Spirit to make people hungry for God's Word, and to anoint those who preach and teach it.

Rejoicing in our Father,

**Carolyn**

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Local butterfly