

May 2012

"Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD." Isaiah 66:9

God encourages me with this promise every time I come to the final battle for birthing a New Testament. We did not quite complete the final checks of the Banna New Testament before I left Alduba March 31st. I have talked with translators Getu and Ayke by telephone a few times, when the phone lines were working. I think we could have finished by now except that we have only been able to connect an average of once every week or two. I am very disappointed about this. Please pray with me for God's solution. The good news is that I have plenty of other work to do in the meantime.



Banna Worship Service

Praise God with me:

- Bark & Carleen Fahnestock and I arrived safely in Addis Ababa on April 1st as planned. I am now settled and comfortable in my apartment at the SIM Headquarters-Guest House.
- The Guest House does not serve the midday meal on Sunday. Sometimes new people do not know where to find food. I have enjoyed inviting people for Sunday midday a few times, and God has blessed my cooking even though I am not very skilled at it, and blessed me with new friends.
- Kafa translator Gezahegn and his wife have a baby girl, born May 11th. Mother and baby are fine. You may remember that Gezahegn and Abnet lost their only child (a 3-year-old boy) last July.
- Kafa translator Matewos's headaches are pretty well gone. (Thank you for praying!)



Celebrating Completion of Kafa Old Testament Translation

- I have prepared for checking 1 Samuel in the Kafa language and am working on 1 Kings. The team has finished translating the entire Old Testament and is in the process of having it checked by reviewers. Then each book is "back-translated" into Amharic, the national language, to help me in preparing for the consultant check.
- In April I received my copy of the newly published Gurage Bible. (I had worked on the Gurage New Testament.) In May I received my copy of the newly published Koorete New Testament. (This is the language I was working on when I was unofficially expelled from that area in 1984. God later provided someone from another mission to oversee the translation into Koorete.)



Rejoicing over Koorete New Testament

Matters for prayer:

- Kafa translator Matewos and his wife are expecting their 4th child in August. My nephew Matthew, who maintains my website for me, and his wife Mariya, are expecting their 2nd child in October. My niece Christina and husband James, serving with Wycliffe in Papua New Guinea, are expecting their 3rd child in December. Praise God for these gifts and please pray for safety and health for mothers and babies.
- Please continue to pray that the Banna New Testament will be published in time to hold the dedication early next year.
- Pray for the Banna translation of "Chronological Gospel Presentation", a series of 68 lessons that starts with Creation and explains the basic truths of our faith in "easy reader" format. Pray that many Banna people will gain fluency reading in their heart language as they study these lessons.
- Pray for good progress on the consultant checking of the Kafa Old Testament.

Thank you so much for partnering with me to bring God's Word to the peoples of Ethiopia in their heart language.

Trusting God to give delivery,

Carolyn Ford