

*"I ... will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word."* Psalm 138:2 NIV

God in His perfect timing brought the proof of Banna Matthew typeset in Latin script on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Though it was beautifully done, we discovered a few more things to fix. I am grateful that Donna Clawson continues to help us check the typeset copy. I also sent it to the translators to let them comment on the layout.

We were able to check Kafa Psalms through chapter 65, and we praise God for that. I have the back-translation into Amharic through chapter 90 so can continue to prepare for checking those psalms.



Kafa translator Mattewos is at Africa International University in Nairobi, Kenya for the month of September, taking classes toward a Master's in Biblical Translation. When he returns to Ethiopia, he will continue to work on the Kafa translation while studying by distance education.



I am sending separately a lengthy report on Gezahegn's health. Our hearts are heavy because of the prognosis, yet hopeful because we see God's hand in every aspect of his diagnosis and treatment so far. He is 36 years old and has an even younger wife, a sixteen-month-old daughter and a two-month-old daughter. He lost his only son two years ago to cerebral malaria. Please be much in prayer for the family and for all concerned with his care.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next 3 months. Here is my schedule for visiting churches:

September 29<sup>th</sup>  
October 6<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup>  
October 20<sup>th</sup>  
October 27<sup>th</sup>  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 10<sup>th</sup> (morning)  
November 10<sup>th</sup> (evening)  
November 17<sup>th</sup>

First Church of God, Longview, WA  
United Evangelical Free Church, Seattle, WA  
Bethel Community Church, Washougal, WA  
Clover Valley Community Church, Woodland, WA  
La Center Evangelical Free Church, La Center, WA  
Woodland Presbyterian Church, Woodland, WA  
Faith Community Church, Fillmore, CA  
Sovereign Grace Bible Church, Redondo Beach, CA  
Peoples Church, Fresno, CA

#### Prayer Requests:

- For wisdom for Betty Adams as she typesets the Banna New Testament in two scripts.
- That God will provide two literate Banna people to proofread the New Testament with me when the typesetting is completed. We may bring them to Addis where other business doesn't take priority.
- For Mattewos, his wife, and their four children as they are separated from each other for this month – the longest time they have ever been apart. Three-year-old Fikir ("Love") will especially miss her dad.
- For God's enabling for Mattewos in his studies and in his adjustment to a new country.
- For God's anointing as I reconnect with people in the USA and share about His work in Ethiopia.
- For God's provision of a new visa for at least 1 year for me to return to Ethiopia and finish checking the Kafa Bible. Hopefully dedication of the Banna New Testament can take place during that time also.
- For God's healing for Gezahegn. (See accompanying report.)

Thank you for your part in all of this by your prayers, support, and encouragement.

Praising Him for His love and faithfulness,

Carolyn Ford

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## FOR URGENT PRAYER

Kafa translator Gezahegn turned 36 in August. He and his young wife Abnet lost their only child, a 3-year-old son, in July 2011. Soon after that, Abnet herself became ill and very close to death, but God in His mercy spared her life and blessed them with a baby girl in May 2012, and a second baby girl in July 2013. Gezahegn is also supporting his younger sister, who lives with them, and Abnet's younger sister who lives nearby. Supporting his family, working full time on the Kafa Bible translation, and taking evening classes at the Evangelical Theological College made life fairly stressful for Gezahegn.

He had not been feeling well since January. On a holiday at the beginning of August, because of severe pain, he went to a clinic and the doctor ordered an ultrasound. A few days later he was diagnosed with primary liver cancer.

The doctor suggested that Gezahegn's best option would be surgery to remove the tumor and resection the liver. This is a complex surgery that cannot be done in Ethiopia and is very expensive. The doctor put us in contact with a hospital in India where the surgery could be done for relatively less than in most other countries. Someone would need to accompany Gezahegn – someone fluent in both Amharic (Ethiopia's national language) and English.

Kafa translator Mattewos would have been our first choice because he is a trained nurse, but he was beginning studies for a Master's in Biblical Translation in September and would be in Kenya that whole month. Since there was some urgency about the surgery, I planned to accompany Gezahegn to India. (This would mean canceling my 3-month home assignment in the USA.) Mary, our SIM Health Care Coordinator, said to me, "We need to scan Gezahegn's and your passports and send to the hospital in India so they can write a support letter for your visas." I replied, "I am 99 ½ per cent sure Gezahegn does not have a passport." Since it generally takes 4 months to apply for and obtain a passport here, I sent up a prayer that God would undertake for us in this.

I phoned Gezahegn and said, "You need a passport." He replied, "I have a passport." It turned out that when we were working to get Mattewos' passport quickly so that he could register for the Master's program in Kenya, three other SIM employees said to each other and Gezahegn, "We should apply for passports now so that if we need to leave the country in the future we won't have the hassle of trying to get one quickly." Gezahegn thought, "I have no plans to leave the country, and I don't have an extra 300 birr (equivalent of about US \$20) to spend on getting a passport." Two of the employees applied right away and got their passports. One day as the third employee, Simegn, and Gezahegn were walking past Immigration, Simegn said, "Look, there are no lines; let's apply for our passports." So they did. They were given an appointment to return four months later and receive their passports, but when the day came Gezahegn forgot to go. Sometime later as he came past Immigration he remembered and went in to check on his passport. Again, there were no lines and he was eventually sent into a room where several passports were stacked on a desk. He sat down, thinking his would be on the bottom of the stack. Someone picked up the top passport and called, "Gezahegn Wodajo". He stood up, received his passport, and walked out. That was July 30<sup>th</sup>. He was diagnosed with liver cancer August 12<sup>th</sup>. God knew he needed that passport and arranged for him to get it when he thought it was a waste of \$20.

I phoned Mary back to tell her that Gezahegn had a passport. She said, "I just had a new SIM family from Korea in my office. The mother will teach at Bingham (our school for missionary children). The father is a surgeon, a liver specialist! He has taken Gezahegn's records to look at and will advise us regarding his treatment." God knew we needed a liver specialist and arranged for him to come just at the right time. His name is Dr. Kim.

We knew we needed a vascular 4-stage CT scan, but we had been told it wasn't available here. Mattewos suggested we check whether the Korean Hospital in Addis Ababa could do it. Dr. Kim had only been to the Korean Hospital once, but he asked and was told yes, we could get the scan done there. When we arrived, we found a nurse who knows Gezahegn. We told her Dr. Kim had sent us, so she checked and said, "Dr. Kim is here; let me take you back to him." This Dr. Kim turned out to be a radiologist, not the surgeon. He said, "We have four Dr. Kims here." But he was very kind and talked with Mattewos at length. He said that he had a daughter at Bingham (our SIM school) and that she was very happy there. He also said he came to Ethiopia to do trans-arterial chemo-embolizations, which Gezahegn's doctor had mentioned as an alternative if he could not go to India for the surgery.

The day after the CT scan was taken, Mary and I prayed together, specifically asking God to make it clear what we should do. That afternoon, surgeon Dr. Kim phoned Mary to say that the tumor was too large to be operable, and he suggested we have the trans-arterial chemo-embolization done as soon as possible. Mary and I said to each other, "Let's see if they can admit him tomorrow. A few minutes later Mattewos, who had been at the hospital with Gezahegn, phoned to say, "Gezahegn and I have discussed it, and we want him to have the chemo-embolization as soon as possible." I replied, "Mary and I want that too." Mary phoned surgeon Dr. Kim, and he said Gezahegn should arrive at the hospital by 9:30 the next morning and the chemo-embolization could be done a couple of hours later by radiologist Dr. Kim!

The next morning Jonathan Oliver, SIM team leader for Church Ministries, picked me up and drove to Gezahegn's house to get him. Then he drove us to the hospital where Mattewos had already done the preliminary paperwork. They began the embolization process around 11 a.m. We were sitting just outside the door where it was being done. At about noon, the electricity suddenly went off. I cried out in my heart to God not to let that interfere with whatever the doctors were doing inside. Five minutes later the doctors came out and said, "It went very, very well. The electricity went out, but we had finished just a minute before that!" God kept the electricity working until the process was completed.

Mattewos stayed with Gezahegn the rest of the day. That night my good friend and neighbor, SIM nurse Jean Kapsner, spent the night at the hospital to make sure that Gezahegn's needs were met. She took a blanket with her, sat in a straight chair or lay down on the floor throughout the night. What a blessing she has been to Gezahegn and to me.

Gezahegn was in hospital for three nights. He will need to have another CT scan in 3 months. The embolization will hopefully cause the tumor to shrink, and then maybe it will be operable. We know Gezahegn and his family are in God's hands. God will do what is best for all concerned and at the same time bring the greatest glory to Himself. Please praise Him with us for all the ways He has undertaken for us; praise Him for all the people who have helped us. At the end of this report I am copying a message from our Health Services Coordinator in case God

leads you to help cover Gezahegn's medical expenses. You can send your gift to the SIM office in your country and designate it for Project ESMP #92546.

Please pray with us:

- 1) That during the next three months God will show us if there is a better option than surgery in India. While the doctor who would do the surgery is well-qualified and the medical care in India is said to be very good, it won't have the same infra-structure as in either of our home countries.
- 2) For God's healing for Gezahegn and God's peace for his family.
- 3) For Mattewos as he is in Kenya for the month of September. He has never left his family (wife and four children ages 1 to 12) for more than a few days before. He had planned to take annual leave the last two weeks of August to prepare for his time away, but instead he spent that two weeks going back and forth with Gezahegn to doctor appointments and talking with medical people about Gezahegn's treatment. I don't know what we would have done without his help. He lives just a couple of blocks from the Korean Hospital, and the first day we were there he brought us to his house while we waited for blood test results. He had Gezahegn take a nap on their guest bed, and his wife graciously prepared the midday meal for all of us.
- 4) For Mary, who went all out to help us coordinate with doctors, get the needed tests done, and find the best plan of treatment. She is working on her PhD and needs to submit a dissertation proposal this month, but she always took time to help us in any way she could. Ask God to give her good health and bless her research so that it results in better health for many people.
- 5) For me as I visit family and supporters over the next 3 months. I do not feel well-prepared. How does one condense even the highlights of God's goodness into a "power point" presentation? Pray that the Holy Spirit will use what I share to glorify our great God and touch hearts for His kingdom work.

*"With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen."*

Ephesians 3:20-21 NCV

*Dear SIM community,*

*There is an SIM project that was set up a few years ago as a means for us as the mission community to assist our Ethiopian staff who have significant medical expenses that are beyond the ability of the individual to cover with the employee medical coverage and their own personal resources. We are not able to give directly from our ministry accounts to individuals however we can assist by giving to this project. A committee then makes determinations as to who can be helped and to what extent.*

*I would like to make you aware of an urgent need on the part of one of our Ethiopian Staff Medical Provision Project. We actually have been approached in regards to two needs, however one is a very urgent need on the part of one of our Ethiopian staff who has been diagnosed with liver cancer and been recommended to have a liver resection in India. We are also exploring the possibility of a lesser procedure that may be able to be done here in Addis. The prognosis without treatment is very poor, however the doctors are hopeful that this surgery could extend his life. The costs for either of these options will be way beyond the amount that is covered by employee medical coverage and could extend to around \$20,000 USD.*

*The committee has also been approached to contribute towards one of our Ethiopian staff who is in need of extensive dental work which has been deemed a medical necessity.*

*If you would like to contribute to the project to assist with these needs and/or other potential medical needs you can transfer funds from either your ministry or personal accounts to ESMP Project #92546.*