



www.carolynford.org
May 2009

“I am holding you by your right hand, I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, “Do not be afraid. I am here to help you. ...” And the joy of the LORD will fill you to overflowing.”
Isaiah 41:13,16b (NLT)

Two hours after I mailed my February letter telling of the sale of my house, I learned that the buyers were backing out of the agreement. Would God “do it again”? Yes! He brought new buyers – a couple with an 81-year-old mother who will live with them. The house is ideal for their situation. Praise God! Viewings, inspections, and requirements for repairs/upgrades were drawn-out and stressful. God and His people proved faithful through it all. I am so grateful that He is here to help me. The sale closed on April 23rd.

During his spring break from teaching school, my brother-in-law Charlie borrowed a large van, and with the help of family and church friends (without whom I would never have gotten everything packed!) he moved things I want to keep to a storage place he built for me. *Please note my new temporary address at the top of the letter.* Chris is a dear friend who has welcomed me into her home. Another dear



Charlie & the storage shed he built for me

friend, Doris, spent 4 days helping me organize and hold a garage sale. Others helped also. I am truly blessed!



Chris on her deck with Columbia River behind

I have finished writing introductions to the New Testament books in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. Getu and Ayke are translating them into Banna so they can be included in the Banna New Testament. Colleague Donna Clawson visited me in March, during the time I had jury duty. God graciously arranged it so that I did not have to go to court until the day after Donna left!

Donna had hoped to return to Ethiopia this summer, but she may have to wait a few months due to a shortfall in financial support. Colleagues Trent & Tabby Cox plan to leave Ethiopia in July and return early November, so if I move to Ethiopia in June as planned, I’ll be the only missionary in Alduba (among the Banna people). I would rather not wait until November to go, but I may stay in Addis Ababa until either Donna or the Cox family return. Getu and Ayke can probably come for a few weeks to work with me there, and I should be able to work some with the Kafa translation team, who lost their advisor to leukemia last year. Please pray for God’s perfect timing. Pray that I will be able to figure out all the tax forms and other financial matters that need to be taken care of before I leave for Ethiopia. It seems like another daunting task, but the Lord will enable in that as He has with the selling, packing and moving.

Friends Bark and Carleen Fahnstock, SIM retirees, returned recently from ministry in Ethiopia. They shared the following thoughts: “Ethiopia’s national census in 2008 numbers evangelical believers at 18% of the population and the fastest growing segment of society. The greatest need among the churches continues to be for discipleship training, especially of church leaders. ... The most persistent threat to effective, fruitful ministry is interpersonal relationships.” Please do make interpersonal relationships a part of your prayers for me. All the gifts God has given me in language learning and Bible translation will have little effect unless God’s love is actively working through me to draw others to Him. Bark and Carleen added, “The Lord really does answer the specific prayers of His people.” Thank you so much for your faithful partnership.

Unafraid because He holds my hand,

Carolyn Ford

SIM-USA, P.O. Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241-7900



Banna youth (The men wear the beads!)
photo courtesy of Trent Cox