



*" 'Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.' "*

Isaiah 46:4

Two days in Ethiopia, one in Frankfurt Germany, three in Charlotte NC; five in southern Washington State; seventeen in Sebring FL, and November was over. I spent at least two days and one night in the air. God's grace as well as people's graciousness abounded to me through it all. Several friends reminded me of the promise quoted above. Thank you so much for praying for me! I pray for God's special blessing on:

- My friends in Ethiopia, who encouraged and prayed for me as I got ready to leave.
- Our SIM Team in Charlotte, who continue to give counsel as I make the challenging transition from residence in Ethiopia to residence in Sebring.
- My brother-in-law Charlie & sister Peggy, who stored my goods for 5 years in a shed Charlie built on their property, and helped load the truck to send them to Sebring.
- Friends Bob & Carol, who drove the truck to Sebring for me, arriving less than 24 hours after I did, unloading that afternoon (with help from staff and volunteers here), and taking off the next morning to return to Longview WA, in time to host Thanksgiving dinner there!
- SIM staff and volunteers, who have spent many hours installing lights in my ceiling fans (& rewiring for switches – see photo at right), fixing my washing machine (The first time I uses it, all the water spilled out on the floor.), and showing me how to make things work.
- Other residents, who have housed me the first few days, invited me for meals, loaned me what I needed (like a potato masher 20 minutes before I was to take mashed potatoes for our village Thanksgiving dinner to the Fellowship Hall - see photo above), taken me to church & to buy groceries, ...



The day before Thanksgiving, the proofs came from the printer for the Banna New Testaments, and apart from a couple of changes I have requested, it is now ready to hit the press. Praise God! Please pray for a quality job of printing and for the safe arrival of the New Testaments in Djibouti, that they can be obtained quickly without extra storage charges and cleared easily with reasonable import charges. Pray that they will reach the Banna people in excellent condition and be received and read with eagerness. The dedication is tentatively planned for August 2015. I wish all of you could be there. Travel to, from, and within Ethiopia can be very expensive, but if you would like to consider coming, please let me know.

Praise God for enabling us to complete the consultant check of Lamentations and the first three chapters of Song of Solomon in Kafa before I left. Please continue to pray for the Kafa team:

- Matewos, Project Manager, returning from a month of study in Nairobi on December 5<sup>th</sup>;
- Fekadu, part-time editor working on the revision of Jeremiah in Kafa;
- Tekalign, full-time editor and carrying responsibility for most of our reporting as well as whatever else lands on him because the rest of us are absent in body. He is our newest team member, and I am so proud of him for taking on so much of the work load so quickly. He has finished editing Ezekiel in the Kafa language and is now making some revisions in Genesis to accommodate dialect variations.

Praise God for providing a better rental place for Abby (widow of Kafa translator Gus), her 14-year-old sister, and her 2 small daughters. She gave me the coffee pot she is pouring from in the photo at the right. Matewos, Fekadu, and Tekalign are on the couch. Please continue to ask God to make a suitable "condo" (small apartment in high-rise building) available for Abby to purchase.



*So what am I doing in Sebring? I am getting ready to retire in February next year. Why didn't I wait to retire until we finished the Kafa Bible?*

- Since Ethiopia no longer grants 2-year business visas, I would have to leave Ethiopia every 6 months to get a new visa. Being retired, I can still get a 6-month business visa & have several months between trips to recuperate from travel and prepare for the consultant checks.
- Two years ago, when I made my down payment on the house in Sebring, I thought we would finish the consultant check by now. However, we made little progress on the checking from August 2013 when Gus was diagnosed with cancer until June 2014 when Tekalign joined our team. Our project manager Matewos began work on a Master's in Biblical Translation in September 2013, and his studies prevent his giving full-time to checking the Kafa Bible. In the long term, this will help qualify him to become a translation consultant – I can pass on the mantle to him – so it seems well worth the delay in completion of the Kafa Bible. After I had made the down payment on the house in Sebring, the rule was that I needed to move into it within 2 years or lose it and the money I had put down. So technically I should have moved here in September, but I was given 2 months' grace.

*What happens regarding my support when I retire?*

SIM asks my supporters to continue supporting me at 50% of what they were giving before I retired. This is because SIM pays half the base cost of my house in Sebring, \$300 of the \$350/month maintenance fee, the fee for Medicare B, and for secondary medical insurance, among other things. They will send a letter when it is closer to my retirement date. Of course, there is no obligation for anyone to continue supporting me. Regardless, I count on your prayers! I am truly grateful to each one of you who has partnered with me, and I welcome your continued partnership to whatever extent the Lord so leads you.

I won't get a salary from SIM starting February, but I will get Social Security, Lord willing. I plan to return to Ethiopia for up to 5 1/2 months at a time in order to continue the consultant check of the Kafa Bible and help with other details. If I have funds in my ministry account, SIM will let me use them for my travel to and from Ethiopia and for my expenses there. (At the end of the fiscal year, any extra funds that were in my support account go automatically into my ministry account.)

Since I am still settling into my house in Sebring, my preparations for celebrating Christmas will be minimal, but I look forward to good times of worship with friends here. And I sincerely wish you a joyful season as we remember that Jesus, who is eternally God, became a baby in order to grow up and die in our place so we could be reconciled to God. Hallelu-Yah! What a Savior!

Because of Him,

**Carolyn**

Carolyn Ford

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