



# THE SANDY TEACHER

Deanne Gochanour's Newsletter,  
The Here & Now & Next

May 2022

## Teaching in Ghana

I have been teaching Eden and Levi since mid-February. We start the school days with grammar and spelling together, and the kids move to their independent subjects of math, history, or science. Each day we have a read aloud time together after the morning break. After lunch, school usually ends around 1:30, and I often play some type of game with Levi and Eden. Most of the time we settle on Minecraft, but we also enjoy playing Spot It or soccer.

Although Accra stays around 90°, we're on the verge of rainy season, so the days have been cooler lately. I love watching and sometimes getting caught in the rainstorms here. Levi and Eden associate rain with hot chocolate, and a few of our snack times have included a cocoa break! I've been with the Federwitzes through three birthdays, one confirmation, and a whole lot of moving prep. All three kids will be attending Bingham Academy in the fall while I teach at the elementary level. It's been a great opportunity to create relationships with everyone now as we all return to the US for the summer and then move to Ethiopia in August.



Homeschool bakery field trip

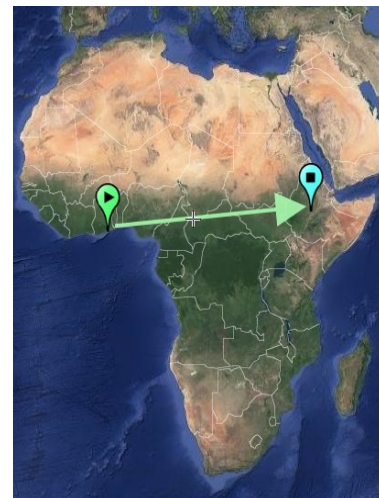


Lunch auction with the Erslands

## Teaching in Ethiopia

I am excited to share that I am officially headed to Ethiopia to teach at the elementary level in August! Bingham Academy is an international school dedicated to teaching K-12 children from various backgrounds while maintaining academic excellence. Their students come from missionary families, non-profit organizations, and even Ethiopian diplomatic families. I have the incredible opportunity to launch my career in this international community.

While living in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, I will be among a community of new teachers living together in the school's provided housing. I will have my own apartment on, or near, Bingham's campus. The hope is that I will teach 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade, but anything can change from now until August. Bingham Academy is an International Christian school in the heart of Ethiopia, and it follows the Cambridge Primary Curriculum standards. This is a rigorous system that generally focuses on critical thinking and knowledge application skills rather than fact memorization and retention skills. I leave in August to begin this indefinite journey!





"Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD" Psalm 150:5-6

## The Crazy Trip Up North

I had an opportunity to travel with the Federwitzes to Northern Ghana and stay with Michael and Naomi Ersland, LBT missionaries, for a little over a week! We filled the time with various games and trying new foods. I was able to observe literacy training and consultant checking for the translation project the Erslands are working on. I was in Gbintiri for market day, which is a renowned market that people travel a few hours for, and I drank pito (a local fermented drink) with Naomi's local mother. Some other things I was able to see included a goat giving birth to twins, a funeral that we woke up at 5:30am to attend, and a neighbor weaving cloth with her apprentices. Although my return flight to Accra was cancelled and I had to stay another day with Michael and Naomi, I loved every experience I had while in Northern Ghana, and I'm thankful for the friendships created that God continues to strengthen!

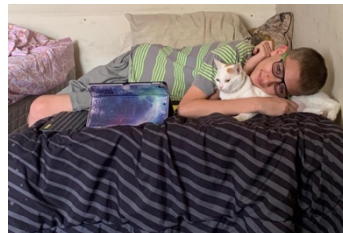
## The Summer Stateside

During my transition from Ghana to Ethiopia, I will be in the US from the end of May to the end of July. While I am in the states, I will be soaking up the time with family in Wisconsin with the baptism of my newest nephew and all the summer adventures with other family members. I have the chance to return to California to visit good friends as well. Although I will be stationed in Southern Wisconsin, I will be in California, Iowa, and Missouri for a bit as well. I would love to connect with you over a meal, at a Bible study or a small group, or during a service! Please reach out so we can schedule something and make that happen.

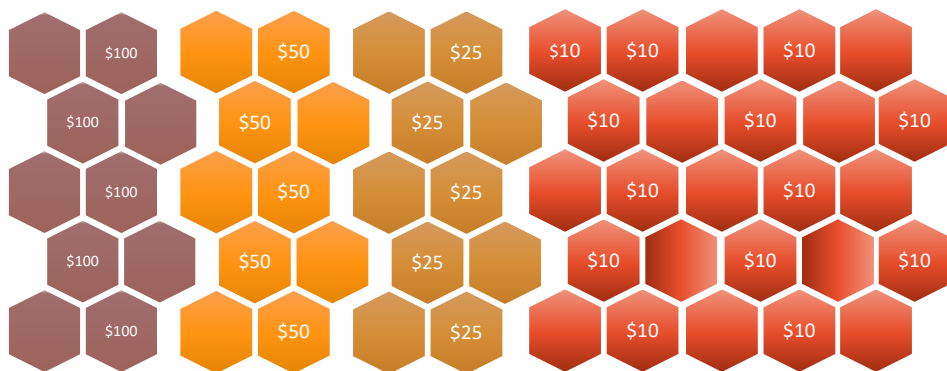
Because Ethiopia is a long-term commitment, I would appreciate individuals and congregations to help sustain my teaching ministry. I need about \$24,000 a year to make this possible. The funds will go towards traveling to and from Addis, food and basic living requirements, and a small amount for classroom necessities. Besides monthly gifts, I would also appreciate your support through prayer. There are many things happening simultaneously and I would love prayers that everything goes smoothly.



Changing our blown tire



Levi enjoying language arts



This chart shows how my \$2,000 monthly goal can be divided!

10 people giving \$100 a month  
10 people giving \$50 a month  
10 people giving \$25 a month  
25 people giving \$10 a month



The Gbintiri Market

Praise God: That the trip in the North was safe, abundant, and new friendships were made! That my time in Ghana has been fruitful and the relationships created here have been wonderful.

Prayers: That my arrival and transition to the US, along with the Federwitzes, will go smoothly. That funding will be raised in time for an August departure.

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Lutheran Bible Translators



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